

Dole endorses GATT accord

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Republican Senate leader Bob Dole said Wednesday he would endorse the GATT world trade agreement and urged all his Senate colleagues to ensure it would be passed by a large margin next week. "There should be a big, big vote, not a narrow vote, but a big margin, a bipartisan margin," Mr. Dole said in an appearance with President Bill Clinton in the White House Rose Garden. "I have agreed with the president that we have fixed this as much as we can," Mr. Dole said. "It may not be perfect, but it answers a lot of the concerns" raised by Mr. Dole and others, notably that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade pact would infringe U.S. sovereignty. Mr. Dole said he would be sending a personal letter to each of his Republican colleagues in the Senate, urging them to vote overwhelmingly for the agreement when it is put before them next week. Mr. Clinton said, "an understanding has been reached with Senator Dole" to reaffirm U.S. sovereignty once the pact takes effect and that the new World Trade Organisation "will be accountable and fair."

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Crown Prince holds talks in Brussels

BRUSSELS (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday met with Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and discussed with him bilateral relations and issues of common interest. Prince Hassan, who arrived in Belgium earlier in the day, also discussed with Mr. Dehaene Europe's future role in the region. The Crown Prince and the Belgian premier also reviewed the significance of the Middle East economic development conference which will be hosted by Amman in the first half of 1995. Mr. Dehaene commended Jordan's key role in the peace process and the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan in that regard, commending the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and describing it as a real step towards achieving comprehensive peace in the region. He also voiced his country's support for Jordan and his government's desire to boost cooperation with the Kingdom in all fields. Prince Hassan arrived in Brussels from London after delivering a lecture at Oxford University (see page 7).

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Gulf states ready to normalise Iraq ties

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are ready to normalise relations with Iraq once it complies with all U.N. Security Council demands, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry said Wednesday.

Asked if that was possible even if Saddam Hussein remains in power, Prince Saud Al Faisal told reporters at the end of a two-day GCC foreign ministers meeting that President Saddam's position "is an internal affair" of the Iraqi nation.

He blamed Baghdad for the rift by invading Kuwait in August 1990 and noted that "there are international resolutions meant to restore stability and provide assurances to the regional states and the world" against aggression.

Prince Saud and the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman met to prepare the agenda for the annual three-day GCC summit in Bahrain Dec. 19. It will endorse joint policies for the 14-year-old alliance on foreign and defence affairs and steps towards forging a regional common market, a goal the Gulf states have long been unable to attain.

Conference sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the issue of Iraq dominated one 2½-hour session by the six ministers.

Qatar has broken ranks with GCC efforts, led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to keep Iraq isolated. The emirate, which has been taking an increasingly independent line lately, advocate restoring relations with Baghdad.

Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasssem Al Thani, pressed the GCC to follow the emirate's lead during the gathering, conference sources said, and urged at least some opening up to Iraq.

But, the sources noted, the Saudis and Kuwaitis argued against Qatar's move and apparently blocked any common move towards resuming links with Iraq.

Sheikh Hamad quipped during a brief photo session at the end of the conference, as he chatted with the Omani and Saudi ministers seated around the huge round table in a hotel ballroom: "This table is surely too large for those of us here who possibly made to include more? perhaps Iraq?"

The conference received a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, affirming Moscow's support for security and stability in the Gulf.

Moscow, making new efforts to regain influence in the Gulf and the Arab World, is working on an initiative at the U.N. Security Council to lift the trade embargo imposed on Iraq in August 1990.

As a result of the Russian efforts, Iraq recognised Kuwait's sovereignty Nov. 10; one of the key U.N. demands for ending the boycott.

The GCC countries have welcomed that as "a step in the right direction," Prince Saud noted. "But it will not be completed until all (U.N. demands) are implemented."

However, Prince Saud and Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa stressed to reporters that there was "no gap" in the GCC states' positions on Iraq.

"There is collective keenness to see an end to the catastrophe which Iraq caused by occupying Kuwait," Prince Saud said.

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Menem: Israel ready for full Golan pullout

'Peres' message to Assad expresses willingness for complete withdrawal

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said in a message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that his country was prepared to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, Argentine President Carlos Menem said Wednesday.

Mr. Menem told a press conference that he delivered the message to the Syrian leader, after having met Mr. Peres on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The Golan Heights, which Israel seized in 1967 and "annexed" 14 years later, would soon return to Syria, he predicted.

The timetable and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan have been among the main stumbling blocks in contacts between the two countries since the Middle East peace process was launched in October 1991.

Syria insists on a total pullout in return for peace, while Israel has so far proposed a phased withdrawal over five years without specifying its scope.

"Peres gave me a message to President Hafez Al Assad expressing Israel's readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan for the sake of promoting peace in the region," Mr. Menem told the news conference.

"There is no doubt that peace in the region would be achieved very soon, more soon than you imagine. The Golan would be returned to its owners," Mr. Menem said through an interpreter.

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ruled out making any new confidence-building offers to Syria after it snubbed proposals aimed at easing the way towards peace.

He told Israeli journalists in Washington on Tuesday after talks with U.S. leaders: "Everything we suggested to the Syrians to instill confidence was refused, and we will not be making any other bid in this direction."

"I think President Hafez Al Assad wants peace but I am not sure it's the peace we want and that Israel can pay the price being asked."

Damascus had rejected proposals for a meeting between Syrian officials and the families of six soldiers missing since the 1980s in Lebanon, where Syria is the main foreign power broker.

It had also refused a suggestion that Israeli journalists should meet their Syrian counterparts in Damascus, added Mr. Rabin, who met President Bill Clinton at the White House on Monday.

"Syria is not doing us a favour by negotiating peace with us. It has to understand that if it really wants peace then it will have to make a lot of gestures to convince Israeli opinion of its peaceful intentions," the Israeli premier said.

His mood was in stark contrast to the upbeat announcement of "progress" by Mr. Clinton after talks in Damascus with Mr. Assad on Oct. 27.

But on Tuesday a U.S. official said the time was not ripe for open negotiations between the two sides.

(Continued on page 7)

Fateh puts up shows of strength in support of Arafat in Jericho

JERICHO (Agencies) — Around 6,000 Palestinians staged another show of support Wednesday for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat with their guns and pledges to win East Jerusalem, five days after the Gaza City killings.

Palestinians from across the occupied West Bank were bussed to the ally called by Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction in the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

"With you Arafat we will go as far as Jerusalem," shouted the crowds. "Young and old, all with the PLO," was another slogan from the crowd, gathered in the rain.

Dozens of Fateh Hawks and Black Panthers, Mr. Arafat's armed supporters, fired rounds in the air with their Kalashnikov assault rifles.

"Thanks to the weapons of the Hawks and the Panthers, we will protect our national cause," Marwan Barghouti, Fateh secretary general on the West Bank, told the crowd.

Similar rallies were staged by Fateh in Gaza City and the West Bank town of Tulkarm on Monday. Around 15,000 people turned up for the Gaza rally.

They followed last Friday's clashes between Mr. Arafat's police and Islamic fundamentalists that left 16 dead and 200 wounded in the worst violence since the launch of self-rule in May.

Mr. Arafat has been trying to regain the initiative after the clashes which raised the spectre of a Palestinian civil war.

Meanwhile a poll published in the occupied West Bank said Mr. Arafat would win an election for leader of a Palestinian self-rule council with 44 per cent of the vote.

But the survey showed that his main rival Hamas had seen its overall popularity leap in the past two months from 10 to 17 per cent.

A majority of the more than 1,000 Palestinians questioned last week also said they backed armed attacks on Israeli targets and 72 per cent did not believe the Jewish state was serious about peace.

While participants in the Jericho rally cheered Mr. Arafat and spoke of the unity of the Palestinian people, some Hamas supporters remained on the sidelines and criticised them.

Said Samir Jawhar, 29, a member of Jericho's municipality representing Hamas: "The time for this rally is very bad after the clash in Gaza."

Hamas opposes the PLO peace deal with the Jewish state.

Israel on Wednesday handed over \$8.5 million in taxes due to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, the finance ministry said.

"These funds were raised through taxes on imports for Palestinians in the autonomous areas, mainly fuel, and have been handed over in line with the economic agreements signed with the PLO in April in Paris, finance Minister Avraham Shohat said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Monday when he called on the donor countries to fulfill their pledges of aid to the authority.

Terje Larsen, U.N. special coordinator in the territories, said Tuesday that only \$140 million of the \$700 million pledged to back self-rule in 1994 had so far been contributed.

He has warned that living standards for Palestinians in Gaza had dropped by half since the September 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy, saying poverty

(Continued on page 12)



King, Queen leave for U.K.

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left Amman on Wednesday on a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom.

Accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Princess Ghida, the King and Queen were seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other members of the Royal family.

Also present at the airport to see them off were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, speakers of Parliament and senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as the British ambassador to Jordan.

Prince Mohammad was sworn in as Regent during the King's absence.

The first is the Jordanian Consultative Steering Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, and includes: Dr. Hani Al Mulki, Dr. Abdullah Touqan, Ambassador Awn Khasawneh, Dr. Munther Haddadin and Dr. Marwan-Muasher.

The second is the committee that represents Jordan at the joint Jordanian-Israeli committee for the implementation of the peace treaty. It is chaired by Dr. Mulki and includes: Dr. Ibrahim Badran, the secretaries-general of the ministries of industry and trade, interior, water and irrigation and planning, Jordan's ambassador to Israel, the assistant chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for intelligence and the economic secretary at the Prime Ministry.

The third committee is the committee to follow up the implementation of the peace treaty, which is chaired by Dr. Mulki.

It includes the secretaries-general of the ministries of municipal and rural affairs, energy and mineral resources, agriculture, industry and trade, foreign affairs, interior, finance, planning, water and irrigation, tourism and justice, the Aqaba Region Authority president, the director general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Central Bank governor, the director general of the Telecommunications Corporation, the assistant chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for intelligence and the economic secretary at the Prime Ministry.

The fourth committee is the committee for following up on matters related to the implementation of projects in the Jordan Rift Valley and is chaired by Dr. Haddadin.

The committee includes the secretaries-general of the ministries of industry and trade, agriculture and planning, the head of the Jordan Valley Authority, the director general of the Jordan Ports Corporation, the Jordan Electricity Authority and the director of the special office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jordanian and Israeli teams entrusted with discussing cooperation in transport affairs Wednesday completed their second session of talks at Aqaba.

Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, director of the Jordan Ports

(Continued on page 12)

TCC to be privatised; process to start next year

AMMAN (Petra) — The government said Wednesday that Jordan's coming battle will be economic in nature and said the Kingdom has made plans to privatise the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to help the Kingdom deal with the economic challenges.

The announcement was made by Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas during a visit by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to the ministry to discuss future plans.

As of June of next year, the ministry will launch the process of privatising the TCC, said the minister at the meeting attended by the TCC director and senior assistants.

The transformation, the minister said, will benefit the Kingdom and boost telecommunications services which would be needed at a larger level in the peace era and would be expected to meet the requirements of the new challenges of peace.

Dr. Dabbas said Jordan aspires to serve as a communications centre at the regional and international levels.

The prime minister stressed that the challenge for Jordan would be an economic battle in which communications and the supply of information would play a key role.

Referring to the peace era Dr. Majali said that there are no losers as a result of peace, noting that the gains could come sooner or later.

"For Jordan peace has ensured the return of its land and water, and enhanced security and stability while Israel's main gain is the fact that it has been recognised as part of the Middle East," the prime minister said.

Referring to normalisation of cultural ties with Israel, Dr. Majali said that the Arab culture was deep-rooted and is not afraid of any "cultural invasion."

"Ours is a culture emanating from the Arab and Islamic heritage and is not fragile that could collapse in the face of interaction with other cultures," he said.

Stressing that Jordan has always been an advocate of peace, Dr. Majali said the Kingdom had great potentials that should help it to develop before others would impose change on the country.

Dr. Dabbas outlined the ministry's accomplishments and programmes to develop the postal services.

Hashem Oudah, the ministry's secretary general, briefed the meeting on plans for opening new post offices. Express mail and facsimile services would be installed at various post offices in Jordan, he said.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Posts and Communications Minister Hashem Dabbas address a meeting at the Ministry of Posts and Communications on Wednesday (Petra photo)

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Panels to implement treaty of peace

AMMAN (Petra) — The government on Wednesday announced the formation of four committees entrusted with the task of following up the implementation of the provisions of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty signed last month.

The first is the Jordanian Consultative Steering Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, and includes: Dr. Hani Al Mulki, Dr. Abdullah Touqan, Ambassador Awn Khasawneh, Dr. Munther Haddadin and Dr. Marwan-Muasher.

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Fateh activists bury differences to counter Hamas

By Lamin K. Andoni

Fateh, the largest Palestinian faction under the PLO umbrella and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's power base, held an emergency meeting in Gaza last night to unify its ranks against the challenge posed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad organisation.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Arafat, was the first of its kind since setting up the Palestine National Authority (PNA) last July. It was attended by the Higher Fateh Committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Fateh Central Committee members who

Demands mount for dismantling settlements

NETZARIM (AP) — Israeli soldiers guarding this Jewish settlement took cover behind sandbags and cinder blocks Monday, their fingers on the trigger and their M-16 assault rifles tracking each passing Palestinian car.

Four comrades were killed by Islamic militants in the last 10 days and soldiers expect the next attack any minute. "You never know where it will come from," said one jittery paratrooper.

Netzarim, an enclave of 31 families isolated deep within the Palestinian self-rule areas, is becoming the test case of the government's policy on Jewish settlements.

There are growing calls within Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government to dismantle Netzarim. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday called it a thorn that needs to be extracted.

Jewish settler leaders rushed to the aid of the beleaguered settlement, saying they would take turns living there and threatened large-scale resistance against any evacuation.

For now, Mr. Rabin stands firm that he will not uproot settlements during the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy, fearing a precedent that could weaken Israel's negotiating position in final status talks.

Even Mr. Peres conceded that the government should hold off on evacuating the settlers so it would not appear it was surrendering to attacks. "I don't think this is the time for a declaration," Mr. Peres told a parliamentary committee.

At Netzarim, a compound of mobile homes and garden cottages sitting on sand dunes and ringed by barbed wire, settlers were digging in Monday. They said they were

being unfairly blamed for the soldiers' deaths.

"In every place, there are attacks, also in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem," said Bracha Nissan, a 29-year-old kindergarten teacher and mother of five. "Should we leave there as well?"

"This is not just a war over Netzarim. I believe this is my place. It's the Biblical land of Israel, the same way Tel Aviv is," she said, speaking in her kindergarten housed in a trailer.

Mrs. Nissan said she prays over her children every morning before they leave in an armoured bus, accompanied by jeeps, for school in Israel. "God will help us," she added.

The settlers council, which represents 144 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, was alarmed by the top-level talk about evacuation. It announced that prominent settlers would take turns living at Netzarim, along with rabbis and members of parliament, and threatened mass resistance if Netzarim were to be dismantled.

Mr. Rabin does not want a street confrontation now between soldiers and settlers, fearing public outcry could further erode support for the autonomy accord. Opinion polls show the public about evenly divided in evacuation.

The future of the settlements is to be discussed when Israel and the Palestinians begin talks on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza in 1996.

But during the past two weeks the issue moved to the top of the public agenda because of the violence around the Israeli checkpoint on the road leading to the settlement.

For Palestinians it is a nagging reminder of what they

see as continuing occupation that the agreement failed to remove and Islamic militants threaten repeatedly to hit at settlers and soldiers. Netzarim sits on the outskirts of Gaza City, kilometres from any other Jewish outposts.

On Nov. 11, an Islamic suicide bicyclist set off explosives at the Netzarim junction, killing three officers of an elite paratroop unit. On Saturday, hundreds of Muslim militants, angered by a bloody Palestinian police crackdown the day before, stoned soldiers at the post who withdrew, but killed a 17-year-old Palestinian when they opened fire. Later that day, a soldier was killed in a drive-by shooting.

The father of the latest 26-year-old victim appeared on Israel Television Monday, his shirt ripped open in mourning. "My son died for nothing," Eli Dadon said.

Ahmad Tibi, a top aide of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, warned that more bloodshed was inevitable unless the settlers were pulled out.

"How much more blood needs to be spilled near Netzarim until someone in the top ranks of the government takes a courageous decision?" Dr. Tibi said.

Soldiers complained Monday that they were sitting ducks, unable to defend themselves because of the intricacies of the autonomy accord.

They said their orders are to shoot only if an assailant fires first. Palestinian police are supposed to search Arab drivers before they reach the intersection, but the Israelis said they were not.

"We feel helpless here," a reserve paratrooper, Yitzhak Kopch, told Israel radio.



Mohammed Esslimani (left), member of the Algerian Revolutionary Front, during the conference in Algiers. On the right, Abbas Aroua, member of the Movement for the Islamic Renaissance of Algeria, during the conference in Algiers. (AFP photo)

Jewish group supports Arafat

LOS ANGELES (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat embodies the best hope of success for the Middle East peace process and should be given full support by Israel and the United States, a report issued on Tuesday by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre said.

The report, written by Middle East expert Kenneth Timmerman, said: "Whether Israelis or Americans like Mr. Arafat or not, he is the only game around, and everything should be done to enhance his stature among his people, not diminish it."

In addition to being chairman of the PLO, Mr. Arafat is head of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza.

In compiling the report, which centred on headline groups, Mr. Timmerman conducted interviews in Damascus, Amman and Gaza. He is the author of several reports previously

issued by the Wiesenthal centre, a Jewish human rights organisation named after the famous Nazi hunter.

An estimated 10,000 supporters of Mr. Arafat marched in Beirut and Tripoli, the Bekaa Valley, Damascus, Baghdad, Mr. Timmerman said at a press conference at the Wiesenthal centre's Museum of Tolerance.

"But the views of radical Islam as expressed by these leaders is in a class by itself. The views, based on anti-Semitic documents, include complete opposition to peace treaties between Israel and the PLO and a devotion to violence as a means of sabotaging the peace process, Mr. Timmerman said.

He pointed to a clause in the Hamas charter that accuses Jews of "gaining control of the international media," causing both world wars and even the French and Russian revolutions as an example of the philosophies at the root of Islamic "hatred."

Middle East actively, I have encountered a lot of violence and a lot of hate. I've met with Jewish extremists... I've met with Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut and Tripoli, the Bekaa Valley, Damascus, Baghdad, Mr. Timmerman said at a press conference at the Wiesenthal centre's Museum of Tolerance.

"But the views of radical Islam as expressed by these leaders is in a class by itself. The views, based on anti-Semitic documents, include complete opposition to peace treaties between Israel and the PLO and a devotion to violence as a means of sabotaging the peace process, Mr. Timmerman said.

He pointed to a clause in the Hamas charter that accuses Jews of "gaining control of the international media," causing both world wars and even the French and Russian revolutions as an example of the philosophies at the root of Islamic "hatred."

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UNESCO fears for pyramids threatened by new motorway

CAIRO (AFP) — An international row is brewing over plans to plough a motorway through the site of the pyramids of Giza, the last of the seven wonders of the world still in existence.

U.N. expert Said Zulfikar told AFP after visiting the site earlier in November: "This motorway is illegal. Egypt is violating its own laws and the convention protecting the world's heritage which it signed in 1972."

A meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Heritage Committee due to be held in Phuket in Thailand from Dec. 9 to 17 "will probably put the pyramids on the list of endangered sites," he said.

"Egypt will have six months to resolve the problem. Otherwise the site will be struck off the list of the world's heritage, which would be an unprecedented move."

Although it would be more of a symbolic gesture, it could lead to a suspension of the annual aid of \$600,000 to Egypt by UNESCO.

The 90-kilometres road circling the Egyptian capital is due to pass from Giza southwest of Cairo to Dahshur further south.

Construction on the road meant to be built 2.5 kilometres away from the pyramids began in 1985. de-

spite a law passed in Egypt in 1983 to protect the site, and is almost complete.

"It cuts the site in two and encourages the spread of urbanisation," Mr. Zulfikar said.

The site contains the three pyramids and the Sphinx dating from between 2680 to 2565 B.C. and archaeologists fear that many important artifacts are still waiting to be discovered.

Fumes and vibrations from traffic will also contribute to damaging the necropolis already threatened by pollution.

"The motorway will cut through the necropolis of Memphis where digs are still taking place which have not yet delivered up all their secrets," the director of antiquities at the site, Zahi Hawass, told the daily Al Akhbar.

Mr. Zulfikar said the Egyptian authorities had sought refuge from the storm by saying that the Organisation for Egyptian Antiquities had authorised the construction work. But the order was not signed by the director who has since died, he added.

The order said there was nothing more of archaeological interest in the site.

But Mr. Zulfikar countered that civil servants entrusted with investigating the site at the time were only told to explore 300 metres across

the site of the 200 metres road and "were only given a week to carry out the work and no one was put at their disposal to help."

Culture Minister Faruq Hosni told the Al Akhbar weekly on Thursday "protection of the Giza pyramids is my responsibility" adding "the ministry is trying to work out a solution to the problem."

Hassan Emam, a professor from the Centre for Environment and Architecture at Cairo University, said "50 million Egyptian pounds (about \$15 million) are all it would take to reroute the motorway away from the site."

"It's nothing compared with the damage and scandal" which will be caused by the motorway due to cost a total of a billion pounds (\$300 million), he added.

Income from the millions of tourists who visit the site each year is estimated at 15 million pounds (\$5 million), which would pay the cost of the diverting the road in three years.

Mr. Zulfikar said only direct intervention by President Hosni Mubarak could stop the site being damaged.

But he said there were a lot of interests at stake "because those who have built homes close to the pyramids want a motorway in order to move about more easily."

Ethiopia says 11,200 flee Somalia fighting

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said on Tuesday 11,200 refugees had fled fighting in the self-declared republic of Somalia in northwestern Somalia and more were on their way.

But aid officials in Somalia said they were wary of official estimates of refugee numbers and reported the Somali capital of Hargeisa was largely quiet since clashes ended on Sunday.

"Over 11,200... refugees from Hargeisa crossed into Ethiopia on Saturday, Sunday and Monday," said Abraham Haile Michael, head of the Ethiopian government's refugee agency.

"They are mostly women and children from Hargeisa. They are very delicate and need emergency assistance before they become victims of starvation," Mr. Abraham told Reuters.

"Those who have already crossed into Ethiopia have no shelter and live in open fields. There is a heavy downpour (of rain) and the climate in the region is very hostile," he added.

He said information received from the refugees indicated that more refugees were heading towards Ethiopia from Hargeisa.

Aid workers said a large number of refugees had crossed into Ethiopia but were sceptical of the government's figures.

The fighting or bad weather were apparently responsible for knocking out all satellite telephone and radio links with President Mohammad

Ibrahim Egal and his separatist administration in Hargeisa.

Helen Smith of the British aid agency Oxfam, in the Somali capital Mogadishu told Reuters a Somali Oxfam employee in Hargeisa reported by radio the town had been calm since Sunday.

She quoted him as saying that Mr. Egal's forces were firmly in control of most of the town except for an eastern suburb.

The U.N. Children's Fund sent a plane load of supplies on Tuesday from Mogadishu to Bourama, west of Hargeisa, and aid agencies planned exploratory missions to Somalia on Wednesday.

Mr. Egal told Reuters last Thursday his forces had crushed most of the rebel militiamen who raided the town two days before and more than 30 people had been killed and 100 wounded in the violence.

He said Hargeisa was calm but some of the "terrorists" from the Ida Gale clan were hiding inside the town but there was no fight left in them and his men would mop them up within days.

About a quarter of Hargeisa's population is Ida Gale, allied with the region's former ruler Abdullahi Ahmad Ali — known as "Tur" (hunchback) — who holds the Somali port of Berbera.

Somaliand, a former British colony, merged with the rest of Somalia at independence in 1960.

S. Arabia considers draft

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, short of the necessary manpower for its ambitious defence programme, is considering the introduction of compulsory military service, diplomats in the kingdom said on Wednesday.

They said the proposal has come in a draft of the country's new five-year development plan due to come into effect in January 1995 and which has yet to be approved by King Fahd.

Saudi Arabia, with a population of 17 million, of whom four million are foreigners, has embarked on a massive \$10 billion programme to beef up its defence.

Deep doubts about Iraq's intentions despite its defeat after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait and suspicions of the radical Islamic rulers of non-Arab Iran across the Gulf are among reasons given by diplomats for the Saudi arms buildup.

But military experts have in the past wondered if the country had manpower to handle the sophisticated arms it is importing.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies put Saudi Arabia's active armed forces at 158,000 men, both in the regular army and the royal-ist National Guard.

A 1992 census put the number of Saudi males in the 13-17 age-group, likely candidates for compulsory military service over the next five years, at 556,500.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tao-Tao

17:30 Film: "Maigret L'Homme Du Banc"

19:00 News in French

19:30 N.E.A.

19:45 Planete En Equation

20:30 The Road to Avonlea

21:10 Teo and Bonetti

22:00 News in English

22:30 Wedding Day Blues

23:59 The Investigator

PRAYER TIMES

06:46 Fajr

06:57 Sunrise (Dhuhr)

12:22 Dhuhr

14:13 Asr

16:38 Maghrib

17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swiflet, Tel. 774741

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637485

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775241

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The effect of the cold air mass will continue, the temperatures will continue to drop with a chance of rain at intervals. Skies will be cloudy and winds westerly moderate to active. In Amman, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 6 / 10

Aqaba 11 / 20

Jerusalem 4 / 12

Jordan Valley 10 / 17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 12, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 100 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bahjat Badr 849462

Dr. Anfal Ashab 642507

Dr. Sa'ad Ali 780285

Dr. Yehya Abdul Salam 736072

Pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 770336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Naioukh pharmacy 636762

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Akram Mounani 248795

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Marid Damra 965522

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 63641

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 629040

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 775121

Complaints 767111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 610231

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 775111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 691100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442416

Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642342

Malha, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845045

Al-Musharraf Hospital 667277

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775111/26

Army, Marku 891611/13

Queen Ali Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323

Zarqa National Hospital 09980632

Ibn Sina Hospital 09980632

Al-Hajia Modern Hospital 09980632

IRBID:

Princess Baena Hospital 02375555

Great Catholic Hospital 02372275

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital 02374700



Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Wednesday discusses his recent trip to Qatar with the emirate's envoy to Jordan upon his return to Amman (Petra photo)

Jordan-Qatar executive programme includes clause on teacher secondments

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Wednesday returned to Amman from Qatar saying he signed an executive programme for the implementation of a Qatari-Jordanian cultural agreement signed in 1972, which now includes a special clause on the secondment of teachers.

During his four-day visit to Qatar, the minister said he met senior government officials and discussed means of promoting bilateral ties with special focus on education and culture.

Noting that the programme covers the years 1994 through 1997, the minister said that it includes the following areas of cooperation: education, exchange of school curricula, equivalence of certificates, exchange of visits by educationalists, acceptance of Jordanian and Qatari students in either country's schools and the exchange of scholarships.

A special clause in the programme concerns the secondment of Jordanian teachers to Qatar's schools, said the minister, who noted that the secondment can only be conducted through arrangements between the ministries of education in the two countries.

The two sides, he said, agreed on cooperation in vocational training, in preparing programmes for students through television and radio facilities, the training of teachers, caring for students with special needs and in holding educational exhibitions.

Man sentenced to 1 year for premeditated murder

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Wednesday sentenced a 26-year-old man to one year in prison for the premeditated murder of his sister.

According to court documents, Khalid M.A. killed his 22-year-old sister Abeer near the Zarqa stream on Dec. 15, 1993.

The court said that on the evening of Dec. 15, Khalid asked his sister and her two-year-old son to go for a picnic, and she agreed.

It said that the three went near the Udwain mills, and Khalid started arguing with his sister about her suspected relationships.

Abeer had been abandoned by her husband who

left the country and later mailed her divorce papers, according to Khalid's testimony to police when he was arrested on Dec. 29.

When the argument reached a deadlock, the court said, Khalid drew a hammer and struck his sister several times on the back of the head. The woman died instantly.

According to court papers, Khalid buried his sister at the scene of the crime and took her son to the city market in Zarqa and left him there.

The child was later picked up by police, who placed an advertisement in local newspapers about a boy found wandering in Zarqa streets.

According to the court, Abeer had been living with another man after her divorce, and attempts by her brother Khalid to bring her home failed.

The court said Abeer's refusal of Khalid's pleas was the motive behind the murder. It added that Khalid failed in a previous attempt to kill his sister.

According to court papers, the man Abeer was living with identified the child's picture in the newspapers and reported to the police.

The man, who was not identified, told the authorities that the victim's brother had threatened to kill her earlier. Based on the man's information, police had said they apprehended the brother, who confessed, saying that he had killed his sister to "cleanse the family honour."

Princess Basma participates in workshop for women municipal panel appointees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's decision to appoint women as members of committees responsible for the affairs of municipalities would open wide prospects for women to run in the next municipal elections. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Wednesday.

Addressing the opening session of a workshop for the 30 women members of municipal committees appointed on Oct. 24, the Princess said that not only was their appointment in line with the National Strategy for Women, but it was a right provided by the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter.

The appointment of women to these committees, she added, would enhance the democratisation process in the Kingdom and boost women's standing, adding that it underlines the right of women in the decision-making process.

Expressing her confidence in the women's ability to handle the task entrusted to them, the Princess said that the workshop, which was organised by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs

and the Environment, aimed at providing them with the vital and basic information for their work.

The Princess wished the participants success in their mission to assist the ministry carrying out its duties towards the local communities and thus help enhance the concept of promoting local and decentralised government in Jordan.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Tawfiq Kreishan addressed the opening session recalling that the late Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, had spearheaded efforts to upgrade women's status in society.

He said that Princess Basma has been instrumental in promoting women's roles and had been behind the idea of the government decision to appoint women to the municipal council committees which will serve until elections are held next September.

Mr. Kreishan said the ministry will spare no effort towards making the women's mission succeed, adding that a new list of women has been compiled to serve on the municipal committees



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma addresses the opening session of the workshop for municipal panel appointees (Petra photo)

appointed by the government earlier this year after the dissolution of the elected municipal councils.

At the meeting, which was held at the Queen Zein Complex, several women members delivered speeches, ex-

pressing readiness to shoulder the new task and serve the local communities.

The Princess later took part in the work of the first day of the two-day workshop which would dedicate discussions to the role of women in

promoting local communities, women and the Municipalities Law, the role of women in local councils, democracy and women's rights, women and housing issues and women and communication with the public.

'More showers, cold nights expected'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Meteorology Department Wednesday forecast more scattered showers for Thursday while the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) reported further increases in the amount of collected water in the country's main dams.

A spokesman for the Meteorology Department said that Jordan will remain under the effect of a cold atmospheric depression centred north of Syria causing a further drop in temperatures and bringing more rain in most regions.

Temperatures, which reached 12°C Wednesday, will climb to a maximum of 10°C Thursday and drop to 6°C at night, said the

spokesman.

Hashem Shboul (JVA) secretary general, announced Wednesday that an estimated 38 million cubic metres (mcm) of water were collected in the dams by Wednesday morning out of their total capacity of 100 mcm.

The King Talal Dam alone, said Mr. Shboul, was reported to be holding 32 mcm of water out of a total capacity of 80 million. It held 28 mcm by Nov. 7.

He said that lesser amounts were reported in the Wadi Al Arub Dam which has a capacity of 17 mcm. Shuhabil 3.9 mcm, Wadi Shuqib 1.4 mcm and Kafrein which has a capacity of 2.5 mcm.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Tawfiq Kreishan Wednesday signs two agreements on RSS work involving water quality and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan (Petra photo)

RSS to create data bank, conduct study on water

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Wednesday signed two agreements whereby the RSS will establish a data bank on water in Jordan and conduct a study on the quality of surface and spring waters.

The first agreement stipulates that the RSS should establish the data bank based on the information accumulated by the society over the years in order to enable decision-makers to better conduct their planning of socio-economic projects related to the environment, according to an RSS statement following the signing of the accords.

It said that the data bank would constitute a nucleus for a national environmental

network on water quality.

In implementation of the one-year agreement, the RSS would gather and classify the information and conduct a statistical analysis on the collected information for future use by the ministry's Environment Department.

The RSS will also provide reports on the causes of change in the water quality with a view to helping the concerned authorities take specific measures for its improvement.

The second agreement provides for the RSS to conduct a study on the water in the King Abdullah Canal and several reservoirs connected to the Jordan Valley.

That agreement also stipulates that the RSS should monitor the quality of water

in the Aqaba region as well as the treated water at the waste water treatment plant in the port city.

It aims at identifying the pollutants in the reservoirs resulting from organic, industrial and agricultural sources, according to the statement which noted that the second agreement is for one year.

The two were signed by RSS President Hani Mulki and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan.

According to ministry sources, the Department of the Environment, which is affiliated to the ministry, would be involved in overseeing the implementation of the two agreements.

Amman Chamber of Commerce election bids intensify

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Campaigns for the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) elections intensified this week as candidates took to the streets soliciting votes from local merchants.

This year's chamber election, scheduled for Dec. 5, promises to be one of the most heated in the institution's 71-year history. The intensified campaigns and increased number of candidates are a sign of the times, candidates say, and reflect Jordan's movement into a new economic era.

The recent peace agreement with Israel, the possible end to sanctions against Iraq and Jordan's bid for GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) membership have heightened interest in these elections.

"Jordan is going to be the gateway to this region," current ACC President Mr. Asfour told the Jordan Times. "And this demands a lot of responsibility on (the chamber's) behalf — there are people in the chamber who want things to be done right. That's why this election is important."

In addition, said chamber member and researcher Odeh Sweiss, the ACC is eager to be part of the economic decision in Jordan — an opportunity made possible by the liberalisation and modernisation of Jordan's economic laws. "Whoever wins seats on the board will have to determine the course of the chamber in our new 'eco-

nomic era." It will rest on their shoulders to see that there is a greater degree of openness in the chamber, to push for a market economy and to lead the private sector into the thick of things.

"Our new role," said Mohammad Haj Deeb, current board member and ACC board candidate, "is to interfere and share with government — to direct the economy with the responsible authorities and have (private sector) desires respected before the implementation of any new economic laws."

The potential for the ACC to influence the Jordanian economy should not be underestimated. Its general assembly numbers 26,000 and representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce sit on the boards of several prestigious economic agencies including the Social Security Corporation (SSC), the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and other key governmental economic and investment organisations.

Forty-four candidates are making bids for the 12-seat board — nearly twice the number of candidates who ran during the last election in 1990. Among this year's contenders are eight independent candidates: Khalid Sae'd Din, Abdullah Abu Assaf, Hikmat Qtaishat (the second female candidate in the chamber's history), Hamed Obeido, Shakib Junaidi, Mohammad Khair Kilani, Wafi Bashawi and Nidal Saudi.

The remaining candidates are represented by



Mohammad Asfour

three 12-member groups: Amal, headed by Mohammad Asfour, current chamber president; Al Tatweer, headed by board member Mohammad Haj Deeb; and Al Wifaq, headed by current chamber vice-president Haidar Murad.

Mr. Murad was a former member of Mr. Asfour's group, but recently split from Amal. Although Mr. Murad was unavailable to comment on his split from the group, both Mr. Haj Deeb and Mr. Asfour have said that the split cannot be contributed to any ideological differences, but only to Mr. Murad's decision to seek the ACC presidency.

In fact, few, if any, ideological differences exist between the three groups. Asfour and Haj Deeb agree that representation of sectors on the board needs to be expanded.

"Now, only two or three sectors can win," said Mr. Haj Deeb, "but there are 30 sectors in the private sector that need repre-

sentation. The board was created with 12 seats — that was when Amman had only 500,000 people. Now, it's 1.5 million and the chamber numbers 26,000. The chamber really is helpless as far as the tourism, shipping, transport and construction industries for example because they don't have any representation."

Mr. Asfour also said that changing chamber laws to facilitate representation would be priority one for his group should it find itself a majority on the board following elections.

He added that the ACC has overlooked an important segment in the private sector: women.

"The woman in our community is a working woman," said Mr. Asfour. "She shouldn't be ignored."

Both candidates agree also that the ACC needs to break from its traditional role and establish itself as a research centre complete with a databank of information available to local merchants as well as international businessmen in Jordan, and should establish a better working relationship with the government.

"We should be developing our activities in such a way that our partners in development and business have access to people and an institution that can help them understand the economic situation in Jordan and the region," said Mr. Asfour.

One of Mr. Asfour's contentions is that he has already established a consultancy committee with

the prime minister, and he says, this relationship with the government should be further developed so that the private sector is represented in more decision-making committees.

The chamber has managed to avoid the politicising of elections as evidenced in other trade unions, and at the end of the day, people will be voting for the candidates/groups they feel are best situated politically and socially to implement programmes serving the private sector, the two men say.

ACC observers as well as candidates believe that those running with groups in elections stand the best chances of winning. The reasons for this are twofold.

Generally, in the past, elections have placed members of groups on the board and have generally excluded individual candidates. During the last elections for example, Amal won seven seats while the remaining five were filled by Mr. Haj Deeb's Al Tatweer.

Also, said Mr. Sweiss, although a variety of private sector segments should be represented on the board, people prefer that these segments follow the same ideology so that conflict within the board is avoided.

"If no group succeeds in being a majority on the board, there will be some strife, naturally," he said. "People want consistency to ensure that the chamber is making progress instead of fighting amongst themselves."

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- Spanish film entitled "Amo Tu Cama Rica" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

LECTURES

- Lecture in Arabic entitled "Where Did the Relationship Between the Palestinian Authority and the Opposition Get to?" by Dr. Khalil Al Shaqqi of Al Najah University at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

- Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Effect of Diabetes on the Digestive System" by Dr. Maurice Dahdah at the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Diabetes on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Ceramics exhibition by Maher Samarra at Alia Art Gallery.
- Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annub at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also

showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim.

- Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argymon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.
- Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Funun.
- Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

Mark On Your Calendar

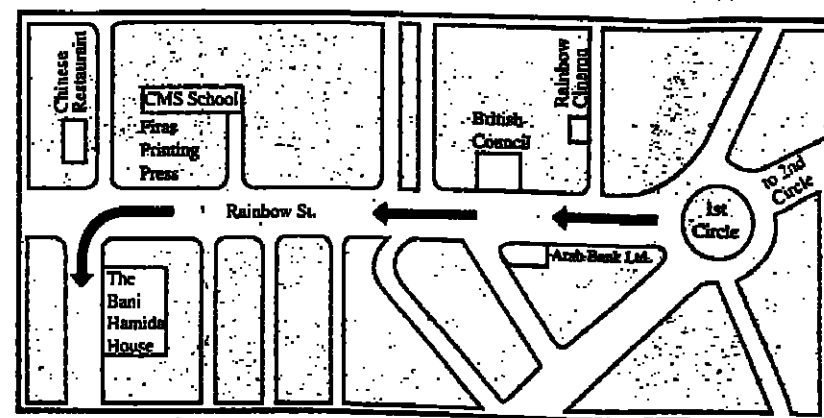


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"DECEMBER"

Celebrate Christmas while touring various showcases of new Bani Hamida fall colors

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مركز بني حميدة

Nepali Communists seek to form minority government

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's jubilant Communists unanimously elected veteran anti-monarchist Man Mohan Adhikary their parliamentary leader Wednesday and awaited word from the palace to form a minority government.

Covered in vermilion powder and garlands, and standing beneath portraits of Marx and Lenin, Mr. Adhikary said there was no possibility of forming a coalition government after last week's general elections left a hung parliament.

But Mr. Adhikary said that, once a couple of technicalities had been cleared, he would see King Birendra, whose father once jailed him, to be appointed Nepal's prime minister.

"For us, there is no room to have a coalition," Mr. Adhikary told colleagues at the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist Party (UML) headquarters.

"Therefore we should go ahead with a minority government, there is no alternative."

The Nepali Congress Party of caretaker Prime Minister

Girija Prasad Koirala, however, left the door open to forming a coalition government in an ambiguous statement issued after a meeting of its top policy-making committee.

"Right now, we are having talks with all political parties on forming a government which is stable," a party statement said, adding a formal decision on how it would proceed would be taken Thursday.

In theory, the Congress Party could form a coalition with the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), which won 20 seats, and three pro-Congress independents.

Earlier, Mr. Koirala said Congress would cooperate with the Communists. "He (Adhikary) will face the same problems as I faced," Mr. Koirala said. "I know where the shoe pinches."

With one result left to be declared to complete the 205-member parliament, UML had 88 seats ahead of the Nepali Congress Party that had held power since 1991 after bloody protests ended 30 years of absolute

monarchy. Mr. Adhikary, 72, told Reuters he could not go to see King Birendra until the last result had been declared and the Election Commission had formally informed the monarch of the complete returns.

He made no comment on efforts to produce a coalition that could win at least 103 backers in a vote of confidence that must be held within 30 days of taking power.

But a UML spokesman said earlier the Communists would rely on outside backing to win the vote.

"We have opened our door for support rather than a coalition," said UML spokesman Pradeep Nepal. "We are arranging for a minority government with outside support from democratic forces."

Mr. Adhikary survived 15 years of jail in Nepal and two in India, as well as upheaval within his movement, to merge two rival Communist strands into the UML in 1990.

The UML linked arms with the Nepali Congress Party that year to bring an end to

King Birendra's absolute authority and force him to restore multi-party democracy, whose brief first life was ended by his father in a palace coup three decades earlier.

Now Mr. Adhikary, one of the driving forces behind the campaign to replace a party-less political system, was expected to go to the palace late Wednesday or Thursday to assume power.

In his speech to Communist deputies, Mr. Adhikary promised his government would stick to the party manifesto, which promised land reform to protect state-run firms while encouraging private enterprises.

"We will follow pragmatic economic policies," Mr. Adhikary said.

"Naturally, agriculture gets priority and we will seek the cooperation of the opposition in our policy," he said of the food-short nation that ranks among the world's 10 poorest.

He also promised more efficient use of foreign aid money that is Nepal's lifeline and about which donors have complained in the past.



Police officers armed with shotguns and wearing bulletproof vests enter the District of Columbia police headquarters after a gunman opened fire on the third floor (AFP photo)

3 officers, gunman killed in U.S. police HQ shootout

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Three law enforcement agents were killed when a man opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Washington police headquarters, sparking a shootout that also left the gunman dead, authorities said.

The dead included two FBI agents and a municipal policeman working on a joint federal-city task force on unsolved homicides.

The building, four blocks from the Capitol, was sealed off by emergency response teams, but they did not fire their weapons. After an hour, they entered the room where the shooting began and found three wounded people.

Washington Police Chief Fred Thomas said gunfire erupted after three men walked into the headquarters in the municipal building, but provided no details on the motive in the shooting.

He said the three men were being interviewed as either witnesses or suspects in cases under investigation. One of the other men was wounded, and the other was unharmed and in custody.

"As far as we're concerned right now... there was a lone gunman," Thomas said. "There were other individuals in the area at the time and we're continuing our investigation to determine if they were connected."

The gunman "was not killed by the police emergency response team called to the scene," he added. "We don't know if he committed suicide or if he was shot and killed by

one of the agents" in the room. The Washington Post Wednesday quoted police sources identifying the gunman as Benny Lawson, who was questioned by police a week ago in connection with a triple murder in Washington.

Chief Thomas said the semi-automatic rifle used in the shooting had been brought by the gunman to the task force squad room, located on the third floor of the building.

Deborah Louise, a municipal finance employee in the building, said she was told "some guy was running around on the third floor with a gun."

The slain officers were identified as municipal Sergeant Henry Daly, 51, and FBI agents Martha Dixon Martinez, 35, and Michael John Miller, 36.

Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly arrived at the scene after the shooting and was reviewing security measures at the building, which is across the street from her own office.

"They've got no metal detectors down here, no security... We need more protection just like anyone else, and they should see that now," said J.C. Stamps, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, the police union.

The four slayings brought to 369 the total number of homicides this year in Washington, already known as the "crime capital" because of its many homicides. Last year there were 467 murders in the city.

Diplomats lead new drive to end Bangladesh crisis

DHAKA (R) — Western diplomats are leading a new drive to solve Bangladesh's political crisis and have urged opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to postpone her threatened resignation from parliament, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

They said the request came during a lengthy meeting Tuesday between U.S. Ambassador David Merrill, British High Commissioner Peter Fowler and Mrs. Hasina.

"They conveyed (to Hasina) their own concerns and that of the overseas donors, investors and even of the local business community," one source said.

During the meeting Mrs. Hasina explained the "basis and logic" of the opposition's demands on the government. She also told the diplomats why recent Commonwealth mediation efforts had failed

to solve the political crisis, an opposition leader said.

"Merrill and Fowler appeared to be leading a diplomatic drive to end the current crisis," he told Reuters.

An Asian diplomat said: "I feel there is still hope. The failure of the Commonwealth has been very disappointing, but not the end of (negotiations)."

Bangladesh's opposition has been pressing the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and allow new elections to be held under a caretaker administration.

The ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) has rejected the demands as unconstitutional.

Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen left Bangladesh Monday following a failed mission to mediate a solution to the protracted and bitter dispute.

Delors overtakes Balladur in French survey

PARIS (R) — An opinion poll dismayed the French right Wednesday by showing Socialist European Commission chief Jacques Delors had overtaken Prime Minister Edouard Balladur for the first time in the French presidential race.

The survey, by the BVA Group, showed Mr. Delors would beat Balladur by 52 per cent to 48 per cent and defeat conservative Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, by an even wider 56 to 44 margin in the May 7, 1995 run-off vote.

Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac are bitter rivals to win the mantle as a single candidate for France's centre-right forces, which swept to power in a general election last year after voters dumped the Socialists.

"If the majority continues tearing itself apart it will lose the election all on its own. We hardly need an opposition candidate," Transport Minister Bernard Bosson said of the poll. "We must stop the massacre."

In a radio interview, Mr. Bosson backed for U.S.-style primaries to select a single candidate for the right and defuse feuding. Mr. Bosson is president of France's Christian Democratic centrists, a partner in the ruling coalition.

The BVA poll was the first showing Mr. Delors ahead of Mr. Balladur although another survey earlier this month showed the two men tied at 50-50.

Mr. Delors had long been favoured to beat Gaullist Chirac, a former prime minister and the only serious contender so far declared in the race. Mr. Delors has said he will declare his intentions by Christmas. Mr. Balladur in January.

The BVA polling institute noted Mr. Balladur had been hit this month by the resignation of the Economic Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin, the third minister to step down since July in a corruption scandal, as well as by greater social unease.

Mr. Delors was bolstered at the weekend by a congress of the Socialist Party in northern France — Mr. Mitterrand discreetly blessed him as his heir and Socialist leader Henri Emmanuelli said Mr. Delors had a moral duty to run.

The poll, for France-2 Television, Europe One Radio and the news magazine Paris-Match, was a reversal from a month ago, when an identical survey showed Mr. Balladur topping Mr. Delors by 55 to 45 per cent.

Jacques Baumel, a pro-Balladur deputy in the Rally For the Republic party founded by Mr. Chirac, urged Mr. Chirac to pull out of the race as polls consistently show him trailing the prime minister.

And Budget Minister Nicholas Sarkozy told financial daily Les Echos he reckoned the premier was the only one capable of beating Mr. Delors. Mr. Balladur would have a duty to run if polls in January still showed him ahead, he added.

The poll had more bad news for the ruling coalition by indicating most voters would pick a rightist candidate on the first round. Mr. Bosson has cautioned that pro-European centrists might switch to Mr. Delors if the choice was between him and Mr. Chirac.

BVA cautioned that it wanted confirmation of the poll in later surveys to ensure it was not a one-off freak.

Kenneth Branagh receives French arts honour

PARIS (AFP) — British actor and director Kenneth Branagh was awarded French national arts honour Tuesday, officials said. French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon made the announcement in France for adaptations of Shakespeare plays including Henry V, Much Ado About Nothing, a member of the French National Order of Arts and Letters. Branagh is currently in Paris to promote his latest film Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.

British town hit by one-boy crime wave

LONDON (R) — Traders in a one-boy crime wave in British town have appealed to the government to give the courts the power to detain the 14-year-old. The boy has been convicted 138 times for vandalism and theft in the northern English town of Eton. He was ordered to put in regular appearances at a police-run attendance centre. Even his father wants the boy jailed. "If it was up to me, I would have put him away somewhere long ago," he was quoted as saying by the Times newspaper Wednesday. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has been blamed for driving traders out, sending insurance premiums soaring and doubling the town's crime rate. "The problem facing our small town falls into the category of a one-man crime wave," the local league of trade and commerce said in a letter to Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard.

Drunken schoolboys try to see the queen

LONDON (R) — Two boys on a drinking spree from the exclusive school Eton sparked a full-scale security alert by deciding to climb into Windsor Castle to see Queen Elizabeth. The 17-year-olds, who had been drinking in the college bar, triggered alarm bells and lights when they tried to scale the wall. They were filmed blundering into the grounds. "Police at Windsor Castle were alerted by security alarms at Windsor Castle to the intrusion on the North Terrace of two 17-year-old schoolboys," police spokesman said Wednesday. "The boys were detained immediately and released by police to officials from the school," she added. Britain's most exclusive private school, whose pupils wear black tailcoats and grey pin-striped trousers, said the errant pair would be disciplined but not expelled.

Police seize 700 violins

PARIS (AFP) — Police have seized 700 allegedly stolen violins and cellos at the home of a Paris flea market dealer and will put them on show in an attempt to find their owners. Police said Tuesday they found the instruments at the home of antique dealer Philippe Hurel, 58, who was arrested at the weekend at the main Paris flea market at Saint-Ouen, north of Paris, on suspicion of receiving. Some of the violins were said by police to be of very high value. Mr. Hurel was alleged to have bought the violins over several years from Gypsies.

Art thefts soar in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Thefts of art works in Russia have jumped ten-fold since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Interior Ministry said. A total of 4,796 works of art, worth about \$500,000, were documented as having been stolen in 1993, and 1,965 in the first six months of 1994. According to Anatoli Davydov, deputy commander of the Russian police, most of the objects first were sold abroad where they are sold at "very low prices." British art dealer Sotheby's recently had to return six art pieces, stolen from a private Russian collection, which had been due to appear in its auctions. Police investigations into the thefts are hampered by the black catalogues in Russian museums and churches, which hold about 40 million art works and thousands of "precious icons. Police showed journalists their latest trove of stolen treasure, including three Soviet generals' uniforms and a vase graced with a portrait of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

China finds 2nd Japanese germ lab

BEIJING (R) — China has found another Japanese army germ laboratory where thousands of Chinese were killed in bacteriological experiments during World War II, the China Daily newspaper said Wednesday.

"The finding will help unmask the intentionally covered facts of that period of history," the newspaper quoted Sha Dongxun, a historian with the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, as saying.

Mr. Sha identified the

laboratory in southern Guangdong province after an investigation that began early this year when he was assigned to find material for a book on Japan's germ warfare during its occupation of China before and during World War II, the newspaper said.

Mr. Sha said the laboratory was founded in 1939 by Japan's fourth germ warfare army in China, designated as BO8609, at the former medical college of Zhongshan University in the provin-

cial capital Guangzhou.

It planted various fatal infectious diseases in refugees from Hong Kong and surrounding Guangdong to study the effects, killing between 3,000 and 20,000, the newspaper quoted Mr. Sha as saying in a report.

Mr. Sha said nurses who worked at the laboratory and its former Chinese gatekeeper had little knowledge of what went on inside, but said he later recorded a statement from a former Japanese soldier who served there.

EU shows 2nd thoughts on Eastern Europe

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Heads of state from six former Warsaw Pact countries will not be invited to next month's EU summit at Essen in a blow to their hopes for early accession to the Union, a senior EU official said Wednesday.

"Essen will take place without the Eastern Europeans," the official said in a revelation that reflected increasing doubts within the Union about the pace set by the current German presidency in expanding into Eastern Europe.

The six countries — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria — had all believed German Chancellor Helmut Kohl would invite them to the meeting of EU heads of state and government at Essen, Germany on Dec. 10 and 11.

But German enthusiasm for an encounter that would have been a powerful symbol of the EU's intention to open its doors to the east before the end of the century, ran into opposition from countries led by France and Spain.

"A number of countries expressed concern that we were going too far too quickly, that the process was gathering an unstoppable momentum," the senior EU official said.

"We have to define what our strategy for the East is going to be before we get involved in talking about details with the heads of government."

The German presidency has seen Eastern Europe catapulted to the top of the European Union's agenda with Bonn anxious to put the reunited Germany at the heart rather than on the Eastern extremity of Western Europe's economic and security infrastructure.

In a landmark decision in October, EU foreign ministers agreed to establish a "structured dialogue" with the six, committing future presidencies to regular ministerial-level meetings between the EU and the East Europeans.

In tandem with these meetings, designed to prepare the six states for EU membership, the EU has instructed its executive agency, the Commission, to draw up an accession strategy.

E. Timor protestors to leave today

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Timorese protestors who have been in the U.S. embassy compound in Jakarta for 11 days will leave Thursday for political asylum in Portugal, a reliable source said.

"The East Timorese will not be leaving the embassy today, but if everything goes well, they will do so tomorrow," said the source who is close to the standoff.

The protesters decided Tuesday to accept an offer of asylum in Portugal, as they feared retaliation from the police if they left the compound.

President Suharto also fuelled speculation that the Timorese would leave. "If they want to go to Portugal, yes please. We do not have any objections. The more that want to go to Portugal, the happier I'll be," he told a senior government official

visiting his residence.

U.S. embassy spokeswoman Pamela Smith told AFP: "We expect their departure shortly." But she refused to talk about the time or date.

An official with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Jakarta said "the procedures for the East Timorese have to be settled with all the parties concerned, and this can be resolved in the next 24 hours."

The ICRC and the embassy denied that the operation would be jeopardised by a request from the Jakarta police chief that one demonstrator be handed over for questioning over a murder investigation.

Major General Mohammad Hindarto had said the men, together with five others already in custody,

was implicated in a murder in April, which is understood to have involved the killing of an off-duty soldier in a Jakarta red-light district.

But Mr. Smith, said the group would not be split up. "We are working with the ICRC to organise the departure of the entire group."

The ICRC head of delegation, Henry Fournier, told AFP that he understood the police request was only a suggestion. "As far as I am concerned I have the full assurances of the Indonesian government that the 29 people will be allowed to leave," he said.

The demonstrators were moved Wednesday to part of the embassy inner compound, about 30 metres from the embassy perimeter. They were behind two large, solid gates, above which only their hands were visible.

2 died as 2 planes collide in U.S.

ST LOUIS (R) — A TWA jetlinertaxiing down a runway sheared off the top of a private plane, killing two people on board the small craft in St. Louis, officials said Wednesday.

Eight of the 137 people on board TWA flight 427, an MD-80 jet bound to Denver from St. Louis, suffered minor injuries. TWA spokesman John McDonald said.

The Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA) said two people on board the Cessna Conquest 441 twin-engine turbo prop were killed when the roof was torn off Tuesday night at Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

Mr. McDonald said there was an emergency evacuation of the TWA jet, which carried 132 passengers and a crew of five. The FAA in Kansas City said there were eight minor injuries among the passengers, apparently suffered in the evacuation

process. Interviewed on radio, Airport Director Leonard Griggs offered the following description of the collision:

"The TWA airplane was cleared for takeoff, he (the pilot) started his takeoff roll, the light airplane ended up on the runway. The TWA pilot saw it, took immediate evasive action, swerved to the left, and the wing clipped and took the top off the light airplane."



Bear goes to dentist's

PARIS (AFP) — A bear who is a minor film star in France went to the dentist's Tuesday to be treated for toothache, after one of its canines broke and became infected. The bear was the 19-year-old Calix, famous in the French film L'Ours by Jean-Jacques Annaud, was transported to a newly-created wild animal clinic in Rambouillet, west of Paris, for the painstaking treatment. Anaesthetist Francois Hugues carried out the important task of putting the

toothache-stricken beast to sleep, before dentist Philippe Hennequin cleaned, filled and capped the canine, which had become infected after being broken. The bear was the first patient for the wild animal hospital, which transported Calix from Normandy for the operation. The next patient at the hospital is due to be an elephant with an infected tusk. The photograph shows Calix being treated in the clinic (AFP photo)

Armenians sue historian for denying 'genocide'

PARIS (R) — An Armenian group has said it was suing a British historian in a new effort to win recognition that Armenians were victims of "genocide" in Ottoman Turkey early this century.

The Forum of French Armenian Associations said it would go to court on Dec. 14, accusing Bernard Lewis of defamation by denying that up to 1.5 million Armenians were systematically exterminated in 1915-23.

Turkey has repeatedly denied genocide charges and a separate Paris court last week ruled it could not try a different Armenian criminal case against Mr. Lewis. The forum would claim a symbolic 100,000 francs (\$19,000) in damages in a civil action.

"Keeping alive the memory of the Armenian genocide will be a service to the international community," Daniel Jacoby, a lawyer for the forum, told a news conference unveiling the court plans.

He said revisionists should be stopped from questioning the genocide, from Armenia to the Nazi Holocaust to Rwanda.

Last week's action, by the Committee to Defend the Armenian Cause, founded when a court ruled that a French law making it a crime to deny genocide against the Jews in World War II cannot apply to Armenia.

But for the first time in French legal history, the

court confirmed that Armenians had been victims of a crime against humanity and that the Turkish government was responsible, prosecution lawyers said.

Lawyers for the forum said their case for defamation would not hinge on the application of the anti-holocaust law but on the idea that Mr. Lewis had insulted them by denying their history.

Mr. Lewis was not expected to attend the hearing.

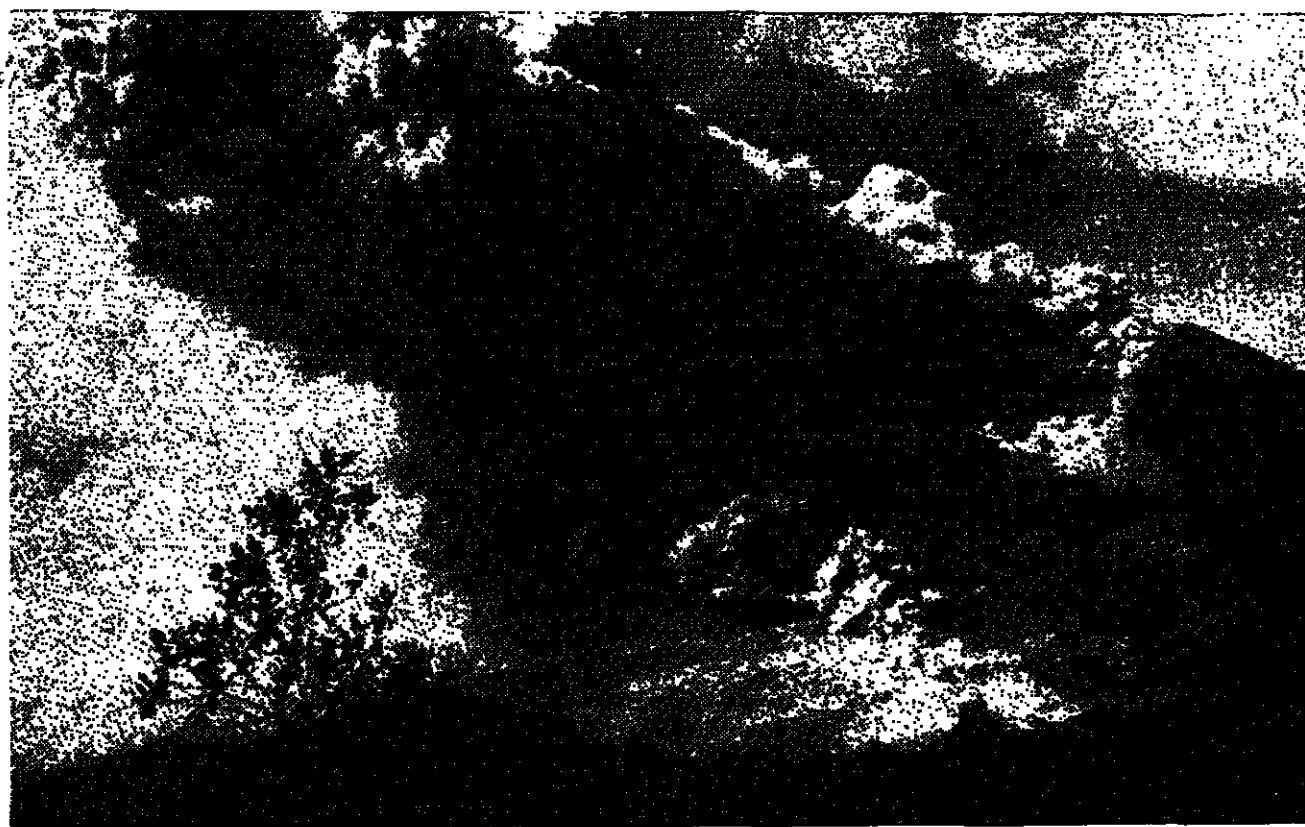
In an article in the French daily Le Monde early this year, Mr. Lewis concluded that "there is no serious proof of a plan by the Ottoman government to exterminate the Armenian na-

tion."

The forum quoted both French President Francois Mitterrand and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan as publicly referring to "genocide" against Armenians.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has also condemned "massacres" against the Armenians, and the European Parliament said in 1987 that Ankara should recognise the Armenian "genocide" if it wants to join the European Union.

But some Armenians charge that the West shies from the question of Armenian genocide because it does not want to offend Turkey, a close ally and a NATO member.



The 2911 metre (9606 feet) Mount Merapi that dominates the densely populated southern plain of Central Java spews ash, lava and heatclouds during a series of eruptions, killing

at least 31 people on its south western flank and destroying hamlets and plantations (AFP photo)

Indonesia volcano death toll climbs to 31

PAKEM, Indonesia (R) — Grieving families Wednesday buried victims of a volcanic eruption on Indonesia's Java Island which killed at least 31 people and trapped dozens more with a lethal cocktail of gases, lava and debris.

The bodies of 15 people including two children, victims of the Tuesday eruption, were given a mass burial in a Muslim cemetery, where a huge grave lay open for more bodies expected to be recovered from the volcano's destructive trail.

Friends and relatives prayed as the bodies, wrapped in white shrouds, were lowered into the grave marked with the names and ages of the victims.

"We expect more bodies," said an elderly man as he stood near the open grave in the cemetery in this village, flanked by paddy fields and fruit trees in the foothills of

Merapi, or fiery mountain. "It is a sad day for the people of Pakem," he said as people filled the grave with dark brown earth and wreaths.

State Secretary Mardiono quoted President Suharto, who hails from Central Java, as expressing condolences for victims' families and promising assistance to the bereaved.

Many of those killed or badly injured in the eruption were burnt by searing steam, including guests at a wedding party that was held despite warnings, according to the officials in the village of Toru, in the shadow of Merapi.

"The volcano spat hot gas," one survivor told Reuters. "We did not have much time to escape because we panicked."

Soldiers cordoned off an area hit by the volcanic eruption, the most serious in

years. But by afternoon some of the area was declared safe. Survivors spoke of chaos as the volcano erupted, with a combination of tremors, lava flows and steam topping or scalding trees and telegraph poles, crushing houses and burying animals and people alike.

Many of the victims treated in hospital suffered serious burns, according to an official at Panti Rapih, one of three hospitals in nearby Yogyakarta accommodating the injured. About 100 victims were still being treated. "Their skins have peeled, and their colour is reddish and most of their bodies are burnt," she said. "I believe that most of the dead were burned alive."

Some of the dead were too badly burnt to be identified. Fears remained for dozens of people still believed mis-

sing, including some believed to have entered the area looking for firewood.

At least 30 members of a 41-man team constructing a water treatment plant in the foothills of the mountain were still unaccounted for. "We don't know if the remaining 30 are trapped somewhere in there or if they did not turn up for work," one official said.

More than 5,000 people were rescued from the villages on the slopes of the volcano and were being given shelter in nearby villages. The holiday resort of Kaliurang was evacuated, as high temperatures parched grass and trees.

An official at the volcanology office said the 3,000-metre (9,800-foot) volcano could erupt again at any time.

"You know that there is always the possibility," he said.

Berlusconi may face fresh probe

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, fighting his political life after Milan magistrates warned him he was under inquiry for alleged corruption, may face a second investigation, Italian newspapers reported Tuesday.

As the media tycoon braved out the crisis by chairing a U.N. international conference in Naples, the newspapers said prosecutors in Rome were considering whether they too should launch a formal investigation into his affairs.

The reports, in La Stampa and Il Messaggero, said the Rome investigators were examining possible violations of anti-trust regulations connected to advertising on the television networks in Mr. Berlusconi's huge Fininvest business empire.

No confirmation of the reports was immediately available.

The newspapers said Mr. Berlusconi tried to pressure state broadcaster RAI to reach a deal to carve up and control television advertising between RAI and the three networks of his Fininvest Group.

They said this would have violated laws regulating fair competition.

Mr. Berlusconi, elected in March on a wave of disgust with graft in Italy's disgraced political old guard, was formally advised by magistrates in Milan Tuesday that he was being investigated for sus-

pected corruption. He has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, declared that he will not resign and accused the magistrates of abusing their powers for political ends to bring him down.

"I'd describe my state as one of calm indignation," Mr. Berlusconi said in Naples where he was chairing the final day of a three-day United Nations ministerial conference on organised crime.

"I have already sworn on what I hold most dear, namely the heads of my children, that I have never committed the things I am accused of," he told reporters.

Hinting at a political conspiracy, he said: "There are too many things that don't add up, or that do add up, and that would mean trouble."

The probe in Milan concerns bribes alleged to have been paid to tax inspectors by companies in Mr. Berlusconi's 57 billion a year Fininvest empire for favourable audits.

It does not imply guilt or that charges will follow. Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman Jas Gawronski said magistrates were expected to question Mr. Berlusconi "by the end of this week."

Gerardo D'Ambrosio, second-in-charge in the Milan prosecutor's office, denied Wednesday that investigators had timed the probe to inflict damage on Mr. Berlusconi and said they had no choice but to investigate.

Announcement of the in-

quiry, details of which appeared in the Milan newspaper Corriere Della Sera, followed a slump in support for Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party in local elections and coincided with his high-profile presence in Naples.

"We can't stop (investigating) just because Berlusconi is prime minister," Mr. D'Ambrosio told the leftist newspaper l'Unita.

Mr. Berlusconi, who entered politics only in January, is the first prime minister since World War II to be served with a judicial notice of investigation while in office.

Five former prime ministers, including seven-times premier Giulio Andreotti and former Socialist Party chief Bettino Craxi, a close friend of Mr. Berlusconi's have all been ousted from politics in Italy's three tumultuous years of graft scandals.

Mr. Berlusconi's popularity has sunk over the past six months in a spate of clashes with the magistrates, whose powers he has sought to rein in, and as a result of a controversial 1995 austerity budget he is pushing through parliament.

Both the opposition and the Northern League, the most difficult ally in Mr. Berlusconi's fractious governing coalition, appeared to be moving to a consensus Wednesday that no move to oust the prime minister should be made before January.

Yeltsin refuses return of land to Estonia

PSKOV, Russia (R) — President Boris Yeltsin stood on Russia's disputed border with Estonia Wednesday and vowed Moscow would not give up "one single centimetre" of land.

The Baltic country is demanding the return of some 2,000 square kilometres of territory now in Russia which belonged to it before World War II.

But Mr. Yeltsin, on a brief visit to the border point of Kunicina Gora, told frontier guards: "We will not give up one single centimetre of land no matter who claims it. They (territorial claims) are futile."

The land Estonia wants returned belonged to it between 1920 and 1940, the year when the Soviet Union annexed Estonia and dictator Josef Stalin handed over some of its territory to Russia's Leningrad and Pskov regions.

Russia began erecting a fence last August along the existing border after Tallinn renewed its claims.

The blunt comment by the Kremlin leader, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, was certain to cast a deeper shadow over already uneven relations with Estonia.

There was no immediate substantial reaction to Mr. Yeltsin's visit from Tallinn. But Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik, in a comment to Hommikuleht newspaper made ahead of the visit, said Mr. Yeltsin's trip could hardly be seen as friendly.

"As far as President Yeltsin's visit to the border is concerned, Estonia can in no way view it as a sign of friendship," Mr. Luik said.

Mr. Yeltsin, in separate comments to reporters after arriving at Pskov Airport, declared that foreign intelligence services were exploiting the border "to penetrate the territory of Russia."

He said Russia needed a strong border with Estonia to protect itself against these agents and smugglers from the Baltics.

At the same time, however, it had to be a "human one" across which Russians living on each side of the border could freely visit each other, Mr. Yeltsin said.

NATO warplanes strike at Serb forces attacking Bihac

SARAJEVO (R) — NATO warplanes struck Serb forces attacking the U.N. safe haven of Bihac town in north-west Bosnia Wednesday, reportedly hitting missile emplacements and tanks.

The air raid, the second in 72 hours, was launched as U.N. peacekeepers reported Muslim refugees were streaming into the town from the surrounding enclave with Serb forces in hot pursuit.

NATO sources confirmed the action, reportedly involving more than 20 aircraft, had taken place.

The Bihac pocket is under attack by the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) and Serb forces occupying neighbouring Croatian territory where NATO hit the Serb-held Udbina Air Base Monday.

The leading pro-government newspaper in Serbian-led rump Yugoslavia warned headline Serbs in Bosnia and Serbia that they had brought NATO's retaliation on themselves.

Hadzi Dragan Antic, editor in chief of the daily Politika which is a supporter of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, wrote:

"Advocates of the war option are again trying to spread the flame of civil war on the territory of former Yugoslavia."

He accused the hardliners of "crazy policies" and warned that Serbs cannot "wage war against the world."

Croatia Radio said the first targets of Wednesday's NATO air strike were Bosnian Serb missile emplacements at Otoka on the edge of the Bihac pocket.

The emplacements fired at two British Royal Navy Sea Harriers flying a NATO mission Tuesday but missed. They have also been used to flout the U.N. with attacks on Bihac town.

Sources close to the Croatian army reported that a second wave of NATO jets attacked Serb tanks close to the town, gorged with refugees from the Serb advance.

Peter Kessler of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said thousands of civilians were flooding into the town Wednesday morning under Serb shelling.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman



Two F-16 fighter planes of the NATO forces at Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy take off for a mission over Bosnian territory (AFP photo)

Alexander Ivanko said the U.N. had reports of incursions into the town, as well as fighting on the southern and western outskirts. He said there could be heavy casualties.

In Sarajevo, the U.N.-controlled airport was put on a state of red alert, reflecting increased security concerns. U.N. officials said aid flights and convoys were cancelled.

The U.N. warned repeatedly the Serbs that violation of the town's safe haven status would trigger fresh NATO strikes.

"Any attempt to completely overrun the enclave and the town would be a matter of grave concern and could not go unanswered," spokesman Michael Williams warned.

Mr. Ivanko said Bihac town was hit by five to eight artillery shells fired by Serb forces. It was not clear whether Bosnian Serb forces or Serbs from neighbouring Croatia were involved in the incursions, the U.N. said.

"Refugees are coming in large numbers from the south and west, fleeing the fighting and their burning villages," Mr. Ivanko added. "We would imagine there are heavy casualties."

"The infrastructure of the town is collapsing under the strain. And the Bosnian Serb Army has captured the water works," he said.

Kazakhstan hands weapons-grade uranium to U.S.

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakhstan said Wednesday it had handed half a tonne of weapons-grade uranium over to the United States in a deal aimed at stopping nuclear material falling into the wrong hands.

Bulat Nurgaliev, deputy foreign minister in charge of arms control, told Reuters: "I can confirm that we have an agreement with the United States for the disposal of a certain amount of nuclear material. It has already been airlifted."

Under the deal, negotiated over several months with U.S. Ambassador William

Courtney, the uranium will go into storage in the U.S. The uranium had been kept at a former Soviet military facility in Ust-Kamenogorsk in the east of the vast territory near its borders with Russia and China.

But after Kazakhstan became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991, the cash-starved country was left with the problem of how to dispose of it.

Mr. Nurgaliev said he had no qualms about disposing of the material as his government saw fit. "It is the property of Kazakhstan," he said.

The White House announced Wednesday that enough nuclear material to produce some two dozen nuclear weapons had been transferred from Kazakhstan to safe storage in the United States.

The White House statement called the move "an historic step toward meeting the proliferation challenges of the post cold war era." It said the weapons-grade materials had remained in Kazakhstan following the breakup of the Soviet Union and were moved to the United States at Kazakhstan's request.

"The United States and Kazakhstan today completed the successful transfer of vulnerable nuclear materials from Kazakhstan to safe storage in the United States," the White House statement said.

It said the government of Kazakhstan approached Washington early in 1994 about the 600 kilograms of highly-enriched uranium on its territory. "Kazakhstan was concerned about the security of the material and asked for U.S. assistance in removing it to safe storage," the statement said.

Crime conference backs drive against mobs

NAPLES, Italy (R) — A United Nations conference on organised crime approved Wednesday a two-part programme for stepping up the fight against international mafias.

The conference, attended by ministers and representatives from 138 countries, pledged to cooperate more closely to combat the growth of organised crime that it

called a "threat to the internal security and stability of sovereign states."

Countries attending the meeting, the highest level U.N. gathering ever on the issue of crime, approved a political declaration underlining their resolve that the fight against "organised transnational crime should be accorded high priority by

states."

They committed themselves to "strengthen and enhance wherever possible" the capacity of individual states, the United Nations and relevant international and regional organisations to combat the mobs, ranging from the Sicilian mafia to Japan's Yakuza.

The conference also passed a "global action plan" which

urged individual U.N. member states to bolster their own laws with regard to activities such as money laundering, and tighten the application of existing international laws against crime.

But the countries stopped short of backing calls for the immediate introduction of a new world convention on organised crime.

Norway EU polls show 'no' lead shrinking

OSLO (R) — Five days before Norway votes on membership of the European Union, an opinion poll Wednesday for the first time showed opponents and supporters neck and neck.

But two other surveys indicated the "no" camp maintained a comfortable lead ahead of Monday's referendum.

On the average, opponents led 46.7 per cent to 40.0 for the "yes" side, but the margin shrank two percentage points from Tuesday. The undecided amounted to an average 13.3 per cent, up 0.6 points.

A Scan-Fax poll for the daily Verdens Gang put opponents and supporters of membership at 45 per cent each as the "yes" camp gained one point and the "no" camp shed two from a similar survey released Tuesday.

Ten per cent, up one point,

were undecided, Scan-Fax said.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said Tuesday she saw a good chance that voters would endorse membership and that the "don't know" would tip the balance in the last week.

Mrs. Brundtland, who has warned Norwegians not to turn their back on European cooperation, said signs were that there had been a change over several months in favour of membership and especially in the last few weeks in some parts of the country.

In a survey by the MMI Institute, commissioned by the daily Dagbladet, EU opponents slipped one percentage point to 50 while the "yes" rose one point to 36. The undecided group fetched 14 per cent, unchanged from Tuesday.

A Gallup Poll released late Tuesday by the commercial channel TV2, gave oppo-

nents 45 per cent, down one point, while supporters were unchanged at 39. The undecided rose one point.

Mrs. Brundtland and other advocates of Norwegian membership of the European Union received rifle bullets in their mail, officials said Wednesday.

The premier's press spokesman Oveind Oestang told Reuters the 6.5 mm bullet was contained in an envelope from an anonymous sender and was delivered to Mrs. Brundtland's office Tuesday. It was sent to police and nobody was injured.

Mr. Oestang said the envelope was addressed to Mrs. Brundtland, but there was no letter to go with the bullet.

Police, who said Fisheries Minister Jan Henry Olsen, another staunch supporter of EU membership, received a bullet in the mail several days ago.

Angola: Rebels again attack government forces

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government forces again accused UNITA rebels Wednesday of attacking them despite a shaky ceasefire aimed at ending one of Africa's longest and bloodiest wars.

"Unita attacked government forces at 6:30 (0530 GMT) this morning," Colonel Ingles Neto told Reuters at Catumbela Air Base near the coastal city of Benguela. Fighting was continuing at Catengue, about 60 kilometres southeast of the city, he said.

There was no independent confirmation of the report. In Lisbon, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) denied it and an earlier government charge rebels had attacked the northern city of Uige after the ceasefire came into force at 1200 GMT Tuesday, officially ending the 19-

year war. "None of this is true. We are respecting this agreement scrupulously," Amaral Costa, UNITA's deputy representative in Portugal told Reuters.

"The international community must send observers to Angola urgently to monitor the ceasefire," he said.

Government forces captured Uige from UNITA last week after their seizure of the rebel stronghold of Huambo earlier in the month.

The U.N. special envoy to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye said Wednesday the world body would not send peacekeepers until it was sure the ceasefire was holding.

"The U.N. won't move in until the Security Council decides there is political will on both sides," he told Reuters in the Zambian capital Lusaka where the Luanda govern-

ment and UNITA signed peace accords of Sunday.

"We are going to check if there is political will... before the secretary-general can authorise the Security Council to go ahead... as long as we do not see real political will, the Council is not going to act," said Mr. Beye.

Diplomats said the sending of large numbers of peacekeepers before the end of the year was unlikely. "No one wants to put anything into Angola until we are sure things are going well," a Western diplomat said.

"The arrival of the blue helmets... depends on the decisions by the Security Council... based on the facts on the ground," said Mr. Beye, adding he had received no reports from the Angolan government or UNITA of any ceasefire violations.

"Neither government nor

UNITA have yet brought any cases of violation to my attention and if there should be any... I would not be concerned at the moment because we should not forget the war has been going on for (nearly) 20 years," he said. The accord was to have been signed by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, but the rebel chief refused to attend the ceremony because government attacks made it unsafe for him to travel, the rebels said.

Lower-ranked officials signed on behalf of both parties.

Sources close to military discussions between the two sides on Lusaka said Wednesday they had agreed to allow Mr. Savimbi 150 bodyguards until the situation stabilised, and 15 after it had returned to normal. The rebel movement had wanted 400.

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Right price of deal

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin has had some odd things to say about Syria's stance on peace. Damascus wants peace, Rabin confessed a couple of days ago, but its price is too high. When the Israeli prime minister went on to elaborate on what constitutes a high Syrian price, it turned out to be just a Syrian insistence on an expeditious Israeli withdrawal from all the Golan Heights.

We have what we think is a legitimate question to ask Mr. Rabin: What is so high about Syria wanting the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 when these resolutions are the foundations of the entire peace process starting with the Madrid Conference three years ago and continuing till now on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese fronts? Since when is the call for respecting Syria's territorial integrity a high price to pay for peace?

In retrospect, it is Israel that is asking for a very exuberant price for peace with the Syrians when it refuses to honour international decisions and respect what is lawfully Syrian under all recognised standards and norms. It goes without saying that there could be no real peace in the Middle East unless it is comprehensive and comprising the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Israel must not allow itself to be intoxicated by the successes on the Jordanian and Palestinian levels and ignore the unfinished business on the remaining fronts. Cairo signed and ratified the Camp David accords more than 15 years ago but there was no real peace in the region because that peace was only a piece, important as it may have been, of the real peace.

We in Jordan would not feel comfortable with the peace treaty with Israel as long as other Arab parties lag behind in their quests for equally honourable peace. So long as Syrian President Hafez Assad is offering genuine and total peace in return for a complete withdrawal from his country's territory, there can be no excuse to procrastinate on the inevitable decision to trade full peace for full withdrawal. Otherwise Rabin would appear to be asking for an unreasonable price from the Syrian side if he continues to harbour thoughts that would earn his country and people real peace without paying the right price for it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE IS no point in the government's reducing the prices of cars because the majority of Jordanians live on limited income which is insufficient these days to cover the exorbitant cost of living or make both ends meet, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour Wednesday. The cost of living in Jordan has reached unprecedented proportions making it only possible for the rich to survive and prompting the majority of citizens to publicly complain about the ever-rising prices of all basic commodities, said the writer. Now that the government has allowed vegetables and fruits grown in the Jordan Valley to be exported in huge quantities, Jordanians are feeling the pinch as they are unable to pay the price of very expensive agricultural products grown in their own country, said the writer. The writer also criticised the government for cancelling almost all subsidies on basic commodities consumed by the limited-income groups, noting that while allocations for subsidies were JD 70 million a few years ago, they are now almost negligible at a time when the prices continue to rise. He said that the Ministry of Supply seems to have abandoned the practice of controlling prices, thus allowing merchants a free hand in manipulating prices.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i, expressed belief that inter-Arab differences will now be phasing out after the successful visit to Qatar this week by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. The visit coincided with Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, a move, which was warmly welcomed by Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states, and came amidst a relaxed political atmosphere in the Arab World following Jordan's signing of the peace treaty with Israel, said the writer. Observers believe that terminating the residues of inter-Arab differences will soon be taking place and that it is a matter of time before solidarity among Arab countries will be reestablished, according to the writer. Reviving the warm relations between Qatar and Jordan bears a strong signal to the other Arab states that solidarity and mutual cooperation are possible and feasible for the sake of safeguarding national interests, said the writer.

THE VIEW FROM ACADEMIA

Seculars in Muslim, Arab worlds: A minority in a sea of faith

WITHIN the Arab World, the so-called secular trends do not pose any serious threat to Islam, nor do they themselves carry much ultimate weight or force. In my opinion, secularism (essentially a misnomer in Arab society) is an external influence whose proponents have been, and still are, a very small minority.

Commenting on the column I wrote last Thursday ("Islam between a rock and a hard place"), a Western friend of mine said to me that, in his own mind, there is no conflict between being religious and being secular. One can have a calling in this world or a sense of commitment to a discipline, sphere of knowledge or worldly activity and be religious at the same time.

At one level, this is true. The long conflict between the church and the various secular movements and tendencies in the West was, to some, resolved through the privatisation of faith. Religion, according to such line of thinking, is primarily a private matter, between the creator and the individual concerned. Many American deists made this point crystal clear in the eighteenth century. Thomas Jefferson, for instance, speaks of "freedom of conscience," i.e. the right of the individual to believe in any religion he/she wants (that is, in any Christian or non-Christian sect), but he insists that religion ought not to interfere in public matters. What this means, of course, is not only that the church and the state are viewed as separate, but that religion (faith, freedom of conscience, or whatever you wish to call it) does not have much of a public character.

Two points need to be stressed here. First, not all Western thinkers have resolved the conflict in the same way; for many of them in fact, no resolution is possible. Therefore, the relationship between secularism and religion is much more (has indeed been much more) problematic than many think. Secondly, and more importantly for our purposes, the assumption that the conflict in the Arab World today is a conflict between religion (i.e. Islam) and secularism is totally

objectionable. A brief discussion of the concept of secularism may help put matters in a better perspective.

Secularism (primarily a Western concept) has many meanings and implications and a complex history. Defined loosely, as Webster's tells us: It is "indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious considerations." Historically, secularism emerges in the West as a form of rebellion against the authority of the church and against many of the limitations and restrictions the church has tried to impose on individuals engaged in a variety of "worldly" activities, including (of course) fundamental preoccupations such as business ventures (so vital in capitalist societies), scientific experiments and discoveries, social and political theories, etc. In American history, the opposition between religion and secularism is perhaps best epitomised in the careers of Jonathan Edwards (a devout Puritan and Calvinist) and Benjamin Franklin (a renegade scientist, industrialist, capitalist and political thinker). The two lived nearly at the same time. While the former was calling on people to come to the church, confess and repent, the latter was asking them to absent themselves from church gatherings and do something more "profitable." The first objection the secularists in the West have (or have had) to religion becomes obvious. Quite simply, it expects people to be too "other-worldly." At one point science was viewed as a form of either heresy or witchcraft: materialism (and capitalism) as generally bad. The second objection is to religion as an institution. Deep down, Christianity (many thinkers feel) is okay. This is Franklin's, Jefferson's, and even Emerson's and Thoreau's point of view. The problem is with institutionalised faiths. Franklin could not accept the restrictions or limitations imposed by the institution of religion on his congregation; Emerson could not stand the rites and rituals which to him seemed hollow and useless. But Thomas Paine expressed the case most radically in *The Age of Reason*: "All national institutions of churches... appear to me no other than human inventions set up to terrify and enslave

mankind, and monopolise power and profit." These words illustrate quite well the hostility a secularist like Paine felt towards religion, but the key term in the quote is "institutions," for Paine, like most other secularists, was not bothered by religion as an institution. Neither of these two objections is a problem in Islam and the Arab World. As for the first, Islam attempts to strike a balance between worldliness and other-worldliness. "Do for this life as if you were to live forever, and do for the after-life as if you were to die tomorrow." Islam is not only condones but encourages science, business, political thought, literature, etc. Some of the best and most revered Muslims were at once surgeons, poets, philosophers and wealthy people.

As for the second, Islam is not an institution in the normal sense of the word. First of all, there is no hierarchy whatsoever within the religious establishment. The imam, on the basis of the Sunni point of view (the vast majority of Muslims), has no authority on people beyond preaching on Friday and beyond leading prayers. But the crucial point here is that any good Muslim (i.e. knowledgeable) can be an imam and can lead prayers anytime anywhere. Furthermore, the mosque itself is not an institution. It is quite simply a place of gathering to shelter worshippers from rain and sun. In fact, one does not have to pray in the mosque. Any place, outside or inside, can suffice for Muslims to meet and pray. Thus the real conflict in the Arab/Islamic world today is not between secular and religious trends (there is no basis for a conflict at this level) but between trends of a different nature, those I listed last week under A, B, D and C: respectively, those who know the religion well and apply it well (10 per cent), those who know Islam for political purposes only (10 per cent), those who know Islam and know its spirit well — but they do not practise and do not know the precise details and the subtleties (70 per cent), and those Arabs and Muslims who have adopted Western secular perspectives — leftist or rightist (10 per cent). This is the way I see the matter.

Elections in Algeria — a necessary risk

The following article is reprinted from *The Economist*.

EGYPTIANS HATE it when their militant Islamic movement — a cyclical twitch in Egypt's long history, they explain to frightened-away tourists — is compared with Algeria's down-hill race into civil war. Indeed, the scale of violence is different: Egypt's regime, unlike Algeria's, is in no present danger. Yet in both countries the militants' strength is nourished by the alienation of governed from government; state oil regimes have been on top for too long; people see them as elitist, corrupt and indifferent to underdog privation. Meanwhile, Islamists, some of whom do admirable social work while others spread terror, recruit from this seedbed of disillusion. Waging war on the Islamists will not change that.

The recent disaster in Egypt in which some 500 people were killed when blazing fuel from an army depot was carried by flash-floods into a southern town — highlights the alienation. Two years ago, when an earthquake hit Cairo, Islamic groups rushed in with relief while the bureaucrats dithered. This time, the government was determined to be first. But it stumbled, and every stumble was pounced upon. President Hosni Mubarak visited the area but, inexcusably, not the town that had suffered most casualties. Relief efforts were damned as inadequate. And

the government's promise of financial compensation was simply disbelieved.

Egyptians expect the worst of their bureaucracy and are seldom wrong. Under International Monetary Fund (IMF) guidance, the country's economic prospects are improving but, at this stage, impoverished Egyptians feel only the pain of lost subsidies. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, which like the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria or Hamas in Palestine is underpinned by a strong social foundation and a reputation for probity, gains from the contrast with corrupt or inept officials.

Egypt's rulers have, by and large, been skilful in containing their Islamic movements. Like Jordan and Malaysia, Egypt has distinguished between a mainstream Islamic movement and its extremist offshoots, squashing the extremists but giving the moderates a little responsibility (very little in Egypt's case). But terrorist attacks on foreign tourists, which have come close to destroying the tourist trade, have distracted Mr. Mubarak into cracking down toughly on moderates and militants alike. Despite this the militants, put down in one province, spring up in another. To help restore all of Egypt to calm, the government may find that it has to reverse its current tactics and allow responsible Islamists some sort of place in a more representative, and better respected, government.

With far more serious consequences, Algeria too has dispensed with subtlety. Over a week ago President Liamine Zeroul pronounced his attempted negotiations with the FIS leaders a failure: the men had refused, he said, to renounce violence. Whatever the excuse for ending the talks, there was never more than a sliver of hope for their success. They were undermined from the start by unaccommodating men on either side: implacable generals who think the only good Islamist is a dead Islamist; and young thugs who have found a new way of life in murdering in the name of God. These hard characters will continue to set the rules.

The prospect is horrible. Ordinary Algerians are caught between terrorists who will slit their throats for a secular thought and military or para-military avengers who will shoot them dead on suspicion of sheltering an Islamist. Many people are striving to leave. Yet France, which is seen by many professional Algerians as a second home, is closing its doors, and Morocco has closed its border. Some flee to Tunisia; others pay to be smuggled to Europe through Italy or Spain.

The economic misery and urban squalor that fuelled the turmoil are likely to worsen. Foreign governments, anxious to help the Algerian government regain control, talk of business as usual. But that means little; the oil and

gas industry, on which Algeria depends, is paralysed as foreign experts leave and local workers concentrate on their own safety. The government has no chance to win hearts or minds — and no certainty of winning the war against the militants.

Mr. Zeroul is turning his attention to a presidential election, to be held before the end of next year. The army's man, say Algerians, will win such an election: the secular parties are hopelessly discredited; it is assumed that any candidate who represents, however indirectly, the Islamic movement will be barred. Yet in Algeria, as in Egypt, the only real hope lies with a fresher, bolder and much more representative government.

What if such a government were Islamist? This is a risk in Algeria, certainly; nobody wants another Iran, where power is monopolised by a religious movement and the secular opposition has no voice. When the FIS was on the point of winning the 1991-92 election, the army stepped in to cancel the election and take over; many outsiders, particularly in France, thought that wise. But the result has been a bloody civil war with a danger of victory for the most extreme Islamists. Allowing people to choose the president, or parliament, they want is now harder, and even more of a risk, than it was in 1992. But to go on refusing them that choice is to court disaster — *The Economist*.

Coming up: a new and different generation of Jordanians

By Fouad Khalafat

THE NEW generation of Jordanians is becoming aware of facts that are different from the facts known by their parents. These different facts are represented mainly by: the higher tone of the democratic discourse; the acceptance of political and intellectual pluralism; the depreciation of the aggressive appeals against Israel as well as the termination of boycotts therewith which is being replaced by economic cooperation; the expansion of economic liberalisation; the new openness towards the West in general and the Americans in particular; attention to local concerns and affairs at the expense of passionate feelings of patriotism; and the expansion of individual freedoms and legal rights.

Necessarily, the mode of thought by the new generation will be different from that of older generations due to the different status they face and to effects of the information media. New faces will be seen on the political and cultural front. These will be holding factual-pragmatic views of things. A new logic will dominate the coming phase.

The present mode governing thought and behaviour will gradually disappear. There will be much faster progress which will quicken the pace towards Western-style modernisation in every way is possible.

The new generation will be less conservative in its

outlook towards the West and Israel. However, they will be less romantic. They will pay more attention to their objectives. This means that the common language that will be used in the Israeli-Jordanian and the Jordanian-Western dialogues will be full of tangible concepts and will be more specific in establishing its targets.

But the following questions will be asked: "What in specific do you want from us? What can you offer us?" The predominant value in any dialogue will be clarity. Respect of cultural civilizational privacy will also remain to be an important element of dialogue though not immediately.

To the contrary of what we may think, this generation coming to the political, social, economic and cultural front will not be easy to deal with. It is a generation which masters the art of dialogue and initiative. It is a generation which will know what it wants. It is a generation that will fight for what it wants and not accept anything below the minimum level of its requirements.

Should any of us forget this or tend to ignore it, he will never know how Jordan will be like at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The writer is a former deputy and member of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. Currently, he is president of the Amman-based "Run Foundation for Studies and Publications." He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

NATO strike may play into Serbs' strategy

By Julijana Mojsilovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — When NATO warplanes bombed an air field in Croatia, were they doing exactly what Bosnia and Croatia's Serbs wanted? The Western alliance's raid Monday was clearly meant as punishment after a string of increasingly audacious attacks by the Serbs on U.N.-protected targets.

But its long-term effects are unclear. Croatian and Bosnian Serbs have lost the backing of Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, at whose behest they went to war 2½ years ago. They now are attacking Bosnian territory jointly because they know they must stick together to survive.

Battling a Bosnian government army that appears to be gaining strength, they seem intent on trying to finish the job now, gaining recognition of their claims to separate statehood. They may be trying to provoke such a big cross-border conflict that Mr. Milosevic would have to come to their aid. In doing so, they increase the risk of renewed war with Croatia and more NATO airstrikes.

Monday's attack also expanded international involvement in the conflict in former Yugoslavia. In attacking the air base at Udubina, NATO planes for the first time took action in Croatia.

1991 war, sent warplanes to attack two government-held towns in embattled northwest Bosnia, and joined Bosnian Serbs and renegade Muslim forces in their attacks.

The air raids launched last Friday and Saturday from Udubina appeared primarily to terrorise the population and antagonise the international community.

Lord David Owen, the European Union mediator on former Yugoslavia, told Britain's Channel 4 he believed the actions of Croatian and Bosnian Serbs were intended to prod Mr. Milosevic back into the conflict.

"I think that's behind a lot of the Bosnian Serb and Croatian Serb intentions," Lord Owen said. "It is to provoke NATO and then to think that Milosevic must change his mind and must come in their support. I hope he doesn't."

Whether the airstrikes led U.N. peacekeepers and NATO itself into a quagmire partly depends on the defiant Serb leadership in Croatia and Bosnia, partly on NATO's appetite for confrontation.

Mr. Milosevic, whose nationalist rhetoric whipped up a Croatian Serb revolt in 1991 and a Bosnian Serb rebellion a year later, froze all but humanitarian aid to Bosnian Serbs in August to punish them for failing to accept an international peace plan. Mr. Milosevic wants them

to accept so he can win litigating of international economic sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia.

Sources close to the Yugoslav army say Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, orchestrated a shift to all-out warfare hoping to eventually engulf both Croatia and Serbia. That way, they believe, Mr. Milosevic would have to commit the still-formidable Yugoslav army to protect them.

Bosnian Serb leaders know well that the Muslim-led Bosnian army is better than it used to be: that NATO is pressing a harder line against them; and that their foes are likely to get more, better weapons with the U.S. decision to stop enforcing an international arms embargo against the Sarajevo government.

They are in a race against time. Bosnian Serbs announced Sunday that they had recaptured all the territory taken by the Bosnian Army's 5th Corps in a surprise offensive out of Bihac last month.

That could have satisfied them, but on Monday they kept attacking.

A Bosnian Serb military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia knew they had to stick together or they would "cease to exist."

Their only link to the outside world is through Bosnian Serb-held territory and they fear Mr. Milosevic will abandon them, too.

Croatia, meanwhile, has been threatening to retake territory occupied by its Serb minority since 1991, and has greatly strengthened its arsenal of weapons.

"If the international community decides to help defeat the Croatian Serb republic militarily, Yugoslavia must come to our assistance," said Borislav Miketic, a leader of Croatian Serbs.

The leader of the Croatian Serbs' self-proclaimed republic, Milan Martić, said Saturday his forces would respond to any attack by the international community.

That would destabilise Croatia, where thousands of peacekeepers were inserted between Serb and Croat lines after the six-month war in 1991 ended.

Monday also was the deadline given by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman for Croatian Serbs to accept a deal to resume economic contacts. That agreement was seen as a first step towards reintegrating Serb-held territory.

LETTERS Grateful to the peacemaker

The writer is a student at the American Community School. The letter below won in a letter-writing competition among the school's eight graders. It was addressed to His Majesty King Hussein.

I want to thank you, and I think I can do it on behalf of thousands of young people, for this tremendous war you fought against war. You won the fight. Your Majesty! After so many years of war — finally peace.

It is a fantastic new fact that we are no longer living in a world where our closest neighbour is the biggest enemy. This knowledge makes us believe in the future, gives us the respect towards ourselves as proud Arabs and towards our neighbours. Hopefully our children will never learn the feeling of hatred and sorrow as we did when we were still small.

Believe me, Your Majesty, the minds of children are always open for new ideas. A bad past has not yet made it only peace gives us a future. I am proud and grateful to witness this dawn of a new time as a Jordanian.

Alexander Jabbar

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Many young Kanaks are eager to participate in the aspect of their heritage but maintaining tribal identity has been difficult as most young people are forced to pursue their studies in the capital.

Tribal elders are now aware that the youth need to be encouraged in the interests so that the dances can live on and not become a piece of ancient folklore.

An early retrospective

By Jean-Claude Elias

Retrospectives usually come after either long series of events or a long period of time. In the world of Information Technology (IT), and considering the speed at which improvements are being regularly introduced, two years can easily be considered as a long time, relatively speaking.

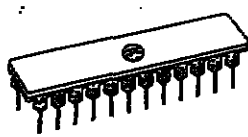
Chip Talk is just two years old this month. The first column appeared in November 1992. Browsing through the one hundred articles that were written since then, I estimate that approximately one third of the stories were about new computer features (whether hardware or software), one third was about general concepts and the last third about the speed of change itself.

In the last two years new standards have emerged in Personal Computing (PC), and what used to be considered as luxury or very advanced has become standard or common. Major software programmes that were good but probably not as good as others have disappeared, while the most successful are now household names.

In 1992 a PC user was proud to say that his machine was equipped with 2 MB (2 million characters) of RAM memory. Currently, the acceptable RAM size is 8 MB at least. Hard disks average capacity was 80 MB; now 400 MB is the standard. Laser printers were only seen in corporate offices two years ago. Now they are commonly found in every place.

Notebooks — these amazing portable computers, the size of an A4 paper sheet — combine the power of any regular size, desk top PC, with razor sharp

chip talk



colour displays. Naturally, prices also went down drastically.

Perhaps the most important recent change is the adoption, by the overwhelming majority of users, of Microsoft Windows operating system. The power and the ease of use of Windows have certainly done more than any other piece of software to win millions of users the world over, changing their computer-phobia to computer-love. No wonder that Bill Gates, Microsoft founder and chairman was able to recently acquire an original Leonardo Da Vinci manuscript at about \$30 million.

It specialists analyse the past years in order to try and extrapolate the future of computing. No study, however professional and well-documented, could really predict what may happen in the near future. We cannot foresee how PCs would be, even by the year 2000 which is only six years from now. To paraphrase Robert Zimmerman (now that it is legal), better known as Bob Dylan, "the answer is blowing in the wind."

Cartoon culture

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

We read cartoon news in the tabloids every day. We also watch cartoon news and see tragedy reduced to soundbites. We head for the hi-fi. Techno pop, cartoon music: Insistent beat and repetitive lyrics — "There's no limit, no, no, no, no, no, no, there's no limit." No, no, no, answers to our unease. We stagger off to the video store and fixate on The Mask.

The Mask is a movie about a timid bank clerk who loves cartoons and becomes a cartoon and is liberated by becoming a cartoon. The star of the movie is also the man of the moment, a nobody suddenly elevated to the \$9 million salary bracket for simply finishing off what the special effects had begun — the evolution from animated human to human animation.

This is the message of The Mask: That we are a cartoon culture, that we want to escape from reality to virtual reality, the gateway to the cartoon world. And if we can't do that, then we will invite that world into ours. Computer games, CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory), CD-I (Compact Disc Interactive)... it and us coming together — call it interactive.

The technology is complicated but what it carries isn't: Entertainment that has to be mass-market moronic in order to pave the technology's way. Everything gets simpler, gets to be about distractions aimed at children.

Only now, of course, adults are into the cartoon culture too, which makes a sort of sense. Taking flight to Toon Town — be it electronic or computer-

generated — is a regressive retreat from a reactionary existence to a magical universe where goodness and love and all the tired old certainties still rule.

Hence the revival of Disney animation: Beauty And The Beast. Aladdin... However, as demonstrated in Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Toon Town is a dangerous place for mortals: its craziness eventually steals good sense. Adults know that bones break, not bend, and that we can't run on air. The cartoon world seductively insists otherwise, which is why the borders are best left up. But now the borders are breached. We have already had The Lawnmower Man, with the title character yearning to merge with a world of virtual reality. In this world you become the fantasy figure, and have the control over your environment you lack in life. No wonder we crave for the cartoon.

But as we become more like them, they become more like us: cartoons talk more than they used to. They hurt and cheat and lie and weep more often too, as if they were truly flesh and blood. As more cartoons are being made to bleed just like people, we can expect more people to behave just like cartoons. We are being propelled faster and faster by a technology which is diverting us for profit. We do not have the time anymore to think or formulate adult opinion, to realise that we are grown-ups and that to be grown up is to be unsure.

Some days it feels as if theme-parks being built inside our heads, with plenty of room for cartoon religion (fundamentalism), cartoon values (PC or political correctness) and cartoon creativity. Many thanks to John X. Lytle for the inspiration.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TIME FOR RIB TICKLING READING

NICKNAMES

- ★ They call her BOTTLENECK: If a fellow opens a bottle, she is ready to neck.
- ★ They call her CRYSTAL: She's always on the watch, and gives you a glassy stare.
- ★ They call her ICE CREAM: She's sweet and cold.
- ★ They call him MIRACLE WORKER: It's a miracle when he works.
- ★ They call him PHOTOGRAPHER: When he is with a girl, he puts out the light. The idea is to see what develops.
- ★ They call him RIVER: The biggest part of him is his mouth.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Familiar Expressions

- Forgive him for my sake. Sameho min ajli khatiri.
- Remember you ate my salt. Tazakkar annaka akalta ma'e khobzan wa-mil'han.
- I'll serve you out. Sawfa antakimo minka.
- This is very sensible. Haza ma'qool jiddan.
- Send him in. Ad'khil 'ho.
- Send him away. Ot'rod 'ho.
- I'll do as you say. Sawfa af'al ma taqool.
- Be seated. Tafaddal bel-juloos.
- Wait and see. Intazir hatin tara.
- I'll see you home. Sawfa as'haboka elal-manzil.
- What a scintillating talk. Ya lahu min hadith shay'yek.

INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ PATIENT: "I've spent 80% of my life savings on doctors."
- ★ DOCTOR: "Why didn't you come to me earlier?"

- ★ TEACHER: "What's the best way to keep milk from going sour?"
- ★ STUDENT: "Leave it in the cow."

★ ★ ★

- ★ FATHER: "How are you doing in your school?"
- ★ SON: "This is not fair, dad. I never ask you how you are doing in your office!"

★ ★ ★

- ★ After finishing target practice, two soldiers were sent to fetch the targets. When they got there, one of the soldiers began to examine them carefully.
- ★ "What are you looking for? The second asked.
- ★ "I want to see which target has more holes for it weighs less," the first answered.

★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Law

1. What is a tort?
2. What is a misfeasance?
3. In law, what is an infant?
4. How did the curfew laws originate?
5. When a person is commanded to appear at a certain place as witness, what does he receive?

★ ★ ★

PERPLEXITIES

- A) Rearrange and underline which of these is not a make of car.
- ROFD - RAGUNDAY - TEYLENB - METOC - TAIF.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 24

7:30 N.B.A

8:30 The Road To Avonlea

Proof Of The Pudding

Sara and her cousins are left "home alone" with only Felicity in charge and create total chaos until the adults return home.

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

Wonder Dog

A man steals the protection system from one of the houses to use it in a burglary. Bonetti and his wonder partner get to work at once.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wedding Day Blues

Starring: Barbara Billingsley and Joel Brooks

The story of a young man, who is a descendant of a well-to-do family, and the obstacles he faces in his bid to marry a down-to-earth lady.

12:00 The Investigator

By coincidence, police uncover and start to track down a network of hired secret agents working for another country.

Friday, Nov. 25

7:30 Movies, Games, And Videos

A look at most recent and widely-used computer games and movies seen in the U.K.

8:00 African Skies

Mountain Man

When wildlife expert, Jordan Rivera, visits Freedom Ranch for a fundraising function, rumours start to circulate that he may not be the good Samaritan he claims to be.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 Heart Of Courage

A woman is rewarded for helping a neighbour who has been harshly attacked and beaten by her husband.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Blanche turns down a comfortable marriage offer after she decides to pursue her studies in Montreal.

11:25 Never The Twain

2-Going To Pot

Simon loses a costly tea service after it slips off his hands and crumbles to pieces.

Saturday, Nov. 26

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

Whose Forest Is It?

A hot discussion takes place between the Hendersons and the environmentalists on the issue of chopping trees in the wood.

8:00 Documentary — Innovation

The Parkinsons Disease

A look at some medical research on Parkinson's disease which spreads mostly among aged people. The programme also highlights possible causes, methods of treatment, and developing symptoms.

8:30 Quantum Leap

Deliver US From Evil

While trying to save a married couple from splitting up, Sam's life gets threatened by another leaper-in-time who decides to kill him.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Family Doctor

After she gets kidnapped, Jessica investigates the murder of an old diseased man.

10:00 News In English

10:30 Feature Film — Miles From Nowhere

Starring: Rick Schroder & James Farentino

The story of a little boy who becomes physically disabled after having had a car accident. His elder brother who feels responsible for the accident tries his best to help him recover.

12:00 Major Dad

Major Dad decides to adopt children despite his kids' disapproval.

Sunday, Nov. 27

7:30 Mc Hale's Navy

The navy join forces in their attempt to find a lost boat.

8:00 The Phantom Horsemen

A boy disguises himself as an old lady while trying to free captives imprisoned by the British soldiers.

8:30 Quantum Leap

Temptation Eyes

Sam assumes the character of an old Chinese fortuneteller who cooperates with the police in trying to nail a notorious criminal.

9:10 Sherlock Holmes

Holmes' continuous struggle in his search for the original gem.

10:00 News In English

10:30 Scarlett

11:10 The Upper Hand

The Heiress

A girl flares in anger and decides to desert her mother after she discovers that she was having a love affair with another man.

Monday, Nov. 28

7:30 Black Beauty

Bella Remembers

Bella's aunt decides to take her back to England after she helps Bella recover her lost memory.

8:00 Boogies Diner

Gerald In Love

After their manager falls in love with one gorgeous customer, the employees decide to arrange a set-up to ruin this relationship.

8:30 Quantum Leap

Black On White On Fire

Sam gets in a lot of trouble after assuming the character of a black man who is in love with a white woman.

9:10 Shades of L.A.

Detective Michael unveils attempted industrial corruption after being aided by the apparition of a dead pilot.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Headhunters

Hall, shaken by the reality of what he has effectively caused, begins to reappraise his stricken conscience and becomes trapped in the agony of self-doubt.

Tuesday, Nov. 29

7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

Kill For Love

The wife of a prominent drug smuggler is taken into custody after being charged with murder. The F.B.I. leaps in to find out more about this story.

8:00 Documentary — World Echo

8:30 Quantum Leap

Roberto

Sam goes back to the year 1982 where he assumes the character of a TV reporter who unfolds the atrocities of a company involved in manufacturing toxic materials.

9:10 Documentary — Cracking The Code

Designer Children

For the first time in history, geneticists can now offer a cure for some of the thousands of inherited diseases. The documentary also explores the difficult personal, moral and ethical issues.

10:00 News In English

10:30 The House of Elliott

After she decides to get married to Daniel, Eve's life gets to the worst as she falls victim to opposing interests.

11:30 Fly By Night

Wednesday, Nov. 30

7:30 Coach

My Girl's Best Friend

Hayden helps a man who tries to take on an educated personality in order to avoid public criticism.

8:00 Prism

8:30 Quantum Leap

A Leap For Lisa

Sam goes back to the year 1957 to assume the character of a police officer who is charged with rape and murder.

9:10 Law And Order

Prince Of Darkness

A man and his wife are murdered in a restaurant while celebrating Mother's Day with their daughter.

10:00 News In English

10:30 Snowy River

This Savage Land

Matt leaps in to protect a man whose wife, charged with attempted murder, gets arrested by a crooked trooper.

11:10 Coming Of Age

Cindy Files The Coop

After being refused to stay with her parents, Cindy decides to rent a neighbouring apartment at her father's expense.

Uzaizi immortalises Nimr Al Adwan

Nimr Al Adwan

By Rocks Ben Zayed Al Uzaizi

Rocks Al-Uzaizi is one of the rare Jordanian men of letters who focused most of his literary effort and attention on folk tradition, dialect and personalities and although he is now over ninety his pen is still furnishing our library with astonishing pieces of literature. He seems to cherish a deep admiration for Jordanian bedouin manifested in some heroic bedouin figures whose words and deeds tradition passed on from one generation to another. This book — which can be characterised as heroism literature — is about one of those well known figures who was also a great bedouin poet. Nimr was one of the chiefs of Al Adwan tribe whose domain was Al Balqa' region and South Shuneh in the Jordan valley. It is a strong and famous tribe made even more famous by the personality and fine poetry of chief Nimr. Rocks took upon himself the hard task of following the life of this hero and of collecting and verifying his scattered poems, a noble research, which took him years to fulfill till it has been realised in a book published in 1990. For the first time a trustworthy, comprehensive account of Nimr's life and poetry came into being.

Though written in a classic manner i.e. purely narrative, mentioning a story here and a story there

and though its chapters are interjoined in an unspecific classification, it is — in one way or another — enjoyable to read. At the outset he mentions that nineteenth century orientalisists got an interest in Nimr's poetry because they found in them gallant manners similar to Middle Ages chivalry as well as an unprecedented faithfulness of a bedouin to his wife at a time when wives had a very low social status and were looked upon more as servants. Just mentioning their names or grieving their departure would have been a sign of weakness inappropriate for a man to have. Yet Nimr not only praised his wife's qualities during her life but eternalised her name in such heartrending verses that are truly very rare in literature.

The first orientalist to take interest in Nimr's poetry was the Prussian Consul in Damascus in 1860 Mr. Wetzstein who translated one of his poems to German. He was followed by Spoer an American orientalist who translated some selective verses. Then Professor A. Sittman translated four of his poems and Albert Soutsou who collected some of Nimr's poems and included them in his book/Collection of Poems From Central Arabia.

Uzaizi begins by following the line of ancestry of Nimr, drawing meanwhile the tribe's tree, then moves to his birthdate and childhood, mentioning that his good looks and intelligence caught the

attention of a French woman from Jerusalem who was paying a visit to his tribe. She beseeched his father in law and his mother to allow her to take him with her to Jerusalem in order to get a proper education. After spending around five years in Jerusalem he pursued his education at Al Azhar Mosque in Egypt being thus the first bedouin in Jordan to get an education.

Uzaizi goes on to describe his youth and how he met Wadha and fell in love with her at first sight. Ever since Wadha became his wife his whole life was centered around his great love and though he moved away from his tribe three times to Al Sakr tribe in Beesaa and after that to Assardiyya in the eastern region and later to Beni Sakr where he participated in some of the small tribal wars which were common in that era and got a fame as a fair and fearless knight — he nevertheless, had to return to his tribal domain and live the rest of his days with his tribe. The turning point in his life was Wadha's death while he was away on one of his trips to Palestine. He lamented bitterly his beloved wife's death to the end of life and expressed his lamentations in eternal verses that echoed through the desert of Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Arabia.

Thanks to the dedication and sincere effort of Rocks Al Uzaizi, our generation is able, after almost two hundred years, to enjoy reading that great poet

Book Review

and knight.

Here are some examples of his reminiscences and elegy for his deceased wife:

If I come with angry heart she calms me down
As would a compassionate mother lull her child

I complain from a heart that melts away
Even if it were hard as a carbond stone
It melts as wax in the heat of sun
The ecstasy of love burns my soul

When a light of dawn appears the night pops in
I wail as a babe at time of weaning
Oh (Ikab) if wailing cures sicknesses
I would look as someone with sleek bones
I would cry on top of the mountain: Oh Knights
And plunge my chain in my lance as a mark
A lady chosen by the frowning death
Left us as if asleep with dazzling beauty.

(Ikab is the name of his son)

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

By Chris Hedges

Mahfouz caught in middle of Egypt's strife

CAIRO — Naguib Mahfouz, a Nobel Prize-winning author, has been dragged from his hospital bed into a debate about religion, freedom of expression and the interpretation of a novel he wrote that was banned in Egypt for 35 years.

The ailing 82-year-old author, a critic of the government of President Hosni Mubarak as well as of the Islamic movement vying for power in Egypt, was stabbed in the neck by an Islamic militant outside his home on Oct. 14.

His health remains precarious, and his wife and two daughters have prohibited interviews, and asked friends to limit their visits.

"The attack has been horrible for him, psychologically and physically," said Tawfik Saleh, a friend. "He is very bad, like a flower starting to wither. Every day finds him weaker."

Shortly after the attack, Minister of Information Safwat Sherif appeared at Mahfouz's bed in the intensive care unit. The minister, with state-run

television in tow, declared the author the conscience of the Arab World.

Mr. Sherif said that the government did not support a ban on any of his works, thus abruptly ending the prohibition on *The Children of Gebelawi*. Officials at Al Azhar University, Egypt's highest religious authority, had denounced the work, written in 1959, as heretical. The novel appeared in installments in Al Ahran, the government daily in 1959, but was never published or sold again in Egypt until last week.

Mahfouz always accepted the ban with equanimity, saying that although his critics had misinterpreted the book, Egypt had "more important things facing its society" than whether *Children of Gebelawi* should be sold.

After the announcement by the minister, and a rush by newspapers to serialise the work, he asked that publication "come at a later time."

"This issue is diverting



Naguib Mahfouz before he was hospitalised in a stabbing attack

attention from a crime against my life to whether this novel is, or is not, against religion," Mahfouz said. "If someone has a preconception that I have written a book against religion, this preconception will influence how they interpret the book."

But his request was ignored. And Mahfouz has found himself an un-

witing ally in the latest government campaign against the Islamic militants.

The novel describes the complex relationship that a group of Cairo slum dwellers have with God. It is filled with allegorical characters who resemble figures from the Bible and the Koran.

Religious authorities said it contained a repre-

sentation of the Prophet Mohammad as a fallible man who had simple ideas and was a philanderer. Mahfouz was also widely criticised by Islamic militants when he supported the 1979 peace accord that President Anwar Sadat signed with Israel.

He again ran afoul of the militants when he criticised the death warrant

issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran against the British author Salman Rushdie, although Mahfouz said he had not read the Rushdie novel that provoked the threat. The Satanic Verses.

The reissue of Mahfouz's book is expected to deepen his problems with the militants. And Mohammad Salma, a close friend of the author, said he considered the publication "a second assassination attempt."

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric currently in prison in the United States, accused of involvement in a plot to blow up several buildings in New York and assassinate political leaders, issued a religious edict in 1989 that called Mahfouz and Rushdie heretics. Militants said at the time that they would kill Mahfouz on the anniversary of his receiving the Nobel Prize, which, like the recent attack, took place in October.

"Islamic Law calls on these people to repent," Sheikh Abdul Rahman said, "and if they do not, they will be killed. If this sentence had been passed on Naguib Mahfouz when he wrote *Children of Gebelawi*, Salman Rushdie would have realised that he had to stay within certain bounds."

Underground cassette tapes distributed by other radical clerics, and easily available in Cairo, also attack Mahfouz, and other Egyptian writers and poets, as proponents of a foreign ideology that seeks to destroy Islam.

Mahfouz's half-century of work, rich in detail, usually portrays life in the teeming working-class neighbourhoods in Cairo. His picture of the city has been compared to Dickens' London or Zola's Paris.

His masterpiece, *The Cairo Trilogy*, follows the fortunes of the Abdul Gawad family over 27 years and both world wars. The work was written between 1945 and

1957.

The author has published nearly 40 novels and a dozen collections of stories.

A diabetic who suffers from failing eyesight and poor hearing, he seldom leaves Cairo and lives in a modest apartment with his wife and two daughters. He has repeatedly refused offers to police protection, despite the death threats.

The government has been running numerous movies and programmes based on his novels and short stories on television, as well as old interviews and documentaries about his life and work. His condition is reported in the daily news bulletins.

"Naguib and his book are being used in the government's battle against Islamic militants," Mr. Saleh said. "Government ministers have walked into the intensive care unit, and his hospital room, with cameras and lights to film themselves with him. One day they delayed his meal for an hour because someone from Egyptian television had arrived to take some more pictures. He was furious." — The New York Times.

A necessary shift in human behaviour

The Celestine Prophecy

By James Redfield

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As we approach the next millenium, a shift in human behaviour, related to modern scientific discoveries (specifically in the fields of physics and ecology) becomes a timely and necessary step in the evolution of mankind.

Redfield's *Celestine Prophecy*, which reveals nine insights into human life, finds a perfect time to affect the general outlook on life in a grabbing account of an adventurous journey around the captivating sites of the Andes for the purpose of finding an ancient manuscript (dating back to about 600 B.C.). In pursuit of this manuscript, a gradual understanding of each of its constituent insights is experienced sequentially leading to a tremendous transformation in thoughts and social conduct as a complete spiritual awareness is reached.

The first insight predicts that towards the end of the 20th century, an increasing number of people start taking coincidental occurrences seriously and relating them to underlying spiritual factors and a deeper mysterious existence. The second insight explains these predictions by showing how they fit well in a longer historical context, in which an evolution of thought (especially in Western societies) can be followed from around year 1000 to this point in time.

During the Middle Ages, all thinking and reality was directed by men of religion who had absolute power over the minds and who exercised this power by being the sole interpreters of God's rules. The people had to follow God's laws, rather than the opposing forces of the devil, to guarantee salvation which could only be determined by these men of religion.

However these Medieval times ended when the men of religion lost their credibility (after centuries of their reign over the minds) as they gave way to their human nature and violated religious rules through corruption causing an outbreak of public rebellion in its fruitful efforts to have a rightful personal access to the scriptures.

The outcome of the collapse of old beliefs manifested itself in astronomers' proof that, contrary to old ideas, the Earth was not the centre of the universe. So mankind lost its place as the focus of God's creation, and this gave way to an age of exploration and scientific development in search of new definitions for life.

Unfortunately, these advances in human capabilities and the scientific discoveries of the age could not give a full comprehensive explanation of the comple-

xities of life, which diverted attention from seeking a spiritual solution to adjusting well into this material world by increasing economic security and utilising the Earth's resources. This modern age concern has been the focus of human existence up to this point in history when awakening is to be consciously undergone for human evolution to proceed. Thus viewing culture from this long historical perspective reveals this pre-occupation of economic growth (which has polluted our beautiful planet) and shifts men's thoughts back to the original question of the true purpose of life.

The third insight presents an extension of the revolutionary works of Einstein (who showed that hard matter was mainly composed of empty space) and portrays the basic stuff of the universe, including human beings, as made of pure energy. Newton's laws of gravitation worked well in the age of exploration when concrete proof was needed for an understanding of natural phenomena, before quantum physics and the perception of energy marked the new era of advancement in thought. In humans, energy is increased by appreciation of beauty which incorporates a feeling of love, and so elevates their level of "vibration." Naturally, the role of plants in establishing energy systems on Earth ties up well with their importance in beautifying our planet, and this link enhances the value of cultivating nutritionally rich and healthy plants to energise life on earth.

With this objective of gaining energy becoming clear, the fourth insight displays human interactions as power struggles for control. Failure to view the universe as a vast source of natural energy results in people's strife to dominate and outwit others (extracting their energy) in order to achieve a psychological uplift, which can result in ruining relationships when individuals involved rely primarily on each others' energy without having an external source. The fifth insight then shows that energy-shortage and all associated insecurities are overcome during a "mystical" experience in which one feels connected to, and an active part of, this universe and everything in it. As more and more people live transcendent instances of these delightful experiences, which to some remain as abstract concepts, a key to a new source of energy becomes voluntarily attainable. It is only then that human evolution takes the right course of progression ahead.

Before making this temporary emotion-stirring experience of connecting with the higher source of energy — which lasts only until encounter with someone at a lower level of energy occurs — become permanent, facing up to our past "control dramas" as phrased by the sixth insight, is mandatory.

As children, we all seek to draw attention, but the methods used or the "scenes" we repeatedly act out to get it form part of a whole "script" we write during

our earliest encounters of human relations dictated by the way our parents (or guiders) treat us. Basically control dramas form a wide spectrum of behavioural attitudes (which are substantially manipulations for energy) ranging from aggressive intimidations or interrogations to find fault and criticize to passive aloofness to stir curiosity or gaining sympathy with "poor me" implications. These control dramas carried out by all family members become a habit which is broken only when it is brought to our consciousness and fully clarified. Our conduct is a combination of these control dramas and a compromise between both parents' approach to life. So life will then have the purpose of achieving a state of higher consciousness before "inner enlightenment" and progressive evolution can flow.

In the seventh insight, thoughts and dreams are viewed as the messages that can guide us forward or backward, depending on their positivity or negativity. Thus to move on, or leap up to a higher level of energy, only positive thoughts must be entertained. The relationship between stress and disease is then explained in terms of the body suffering when it vibrates at a lower level of energy (required by negative, thoughts and ideas).

The eight insight offers a way of dealing with others so that more "messages" are shared, after all it is through others that we get answers to all questions that mysteriously come to our interest.

How we approach others determines the rate of our own evolution. When we fill others with energy, we become replenished and more connected with the higher source of infinite supply. In perfect relationships, individuals are connected with this source and a flow of energy is set up, unlike co-dependent relationships, where infinite supplies are cut off.

To be whole, every person must have both male and female energy, which explains that attraction between the sexes — frequently interpreted as "falling in love." When the male and the female start relying solely on each other's energy, they are automatically disconnected from the universal supply, and then each falls back to his or her control drama for more energy and so a conflict arises in the relationship. So this one "whole" person (resulting from the relationship) faces the problem of having two heads, therefore two egos. Perhaps in the past, one of the partners, mostly the woman, was able to submit her ego to the other, but in this modern age, no one is willing to be subservient. Nowadays, we must try to complete our own circles before connecting romantically with another person, by resisting the "love at first sight" feeling and undergoing evolution separately and independently before special romantic relationships can be maintained. Thus the first stage of establishing a platonic friendly relationship in which individuals open up and reveal themselves to each other is certainly recommendable.

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As for children, they must have access to a constant supply of energy (or attention) unconditionally. People must not take responsibility to more children than they can give enough attention to. Otherwise children will become rivals as they start competing for energy with their "siblings", and these dramas will carry on throughout their lives.

On group conversations, the insight states that as members talk, only one of them will have the most powerful idea at one point in time, and if the others are alert, they should focus their energy on that person so that the idea could come out with greatest clarity. Things go wrong when the person talking, feels this burst of energy and carries on even after the attention has been shifted to another person's expression of a stronger idea. When one monopolises the group, others pull back even when they have a powerful idea, and so the whole group misses out and eventually fragments. In an ideal group, all expressions are encouraged so that the flow of energy can be maintained to an elevated level of understanding.

The ninth insight finally uncovers the transformation in human culture in the next millenium as a result of conscious evolution. It predicts that humans will voluntarily decrease their populations so that all can live in the most beautiful and "energetic" places, that will become more widely spread out as we intentionally allow forests to grow. We will inhabit these regions that will lie within easy travel distance from areas of incredible "technological wizardry," fully automated and at everyone's disposal. But, then "life will have become about something else."

However, in order to visualise this new elevated stage of human existence, the next millenium will have to be lived, just like the other two have been. Whether or not this manuscript's predictions are true will have to stand the test of time. But one thing, perfectly true about this marvellous book is that it definitely creates a more purposeful human direction, stirred by emerging thoughts on key-issues of life and our spiritual existence that has been so far overlooked in our preoccupation to stabilise our position through economic security.

Perhaps the transformation in thought will create a spiritual understanding that will mean the end of this material living on Earth. The author does not perfectly clarify that point.

One thing for sure though is that, as difficult as it may be for us humans to relate to — being trapped by the burdens of our earthly bodies — a spiritual transformation is about acquiring an infinite and everlastingly renewable energy supply that lifts us up in spirit, beyond the restrictions of the gravitational pull (thus defying Newtonian rules) and into the uneasily foreseeable Einsteinian levels of vibration in which we will feel divine as "float freely" in our vast universe.

Rima Cortbawi

Make it again, Sam—fall movie season sprinkled with remakes

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Movie mogul Sam Goldwyn once said: "Studios shouldn't remake hit pictures, they should take flops and make them better."

The Goldwyn wisdom seldom has been practiced. Studios apparently believe that classic films never die, they just need new exposure. Modernize and retrofit and they will strike gold once more. Only problem: They don't.

There are at least five remakes entering the movie marketplace soon: — *Love Affair*. Leo McCarey first made it in 1939, then again in 1957 as *An Affair To Remember*. The 1994 version with Warren Beatty and Annette Bening has

opened unpromisingly, dropping like a rock at the box office.

— *Miracle On 34th Street*. The 1947 film won Edmund Gwenn an Academy Award. The John Hughes-produced revival stars Sir Richard Attenborough as Kris Kringle.

— *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. The man-made monster has been in movies since 1908, but James Whale's 1931 version created a small industry of imitators. Kenneth Branagh's new attempt features Robert De Niro in the Boris Karloff role.

— *Little Women*. The Louisa May Alcott classic was filmed memorably by RKO in 1933 with Katharine Hepburn as the star. Less successful was the 1949 MGM version with June Allyson. Winona

Ryder heads the latest film.

— *Jungle Book*. Alexander Korda's 1943 fantasy starring Sabu is prized by film buffs. Disney made an animated version in 1967, and now is releasing a live-action movie with Jason Scott Lee and Sam Neill.

Are remakes a worthy enterprise, or do they simply indicate a lack of creativity on the part of the studios?

Attenborough, who returned to acting in *Jurassic Park*, admits that he was undecided about attempting *Miracle On 34th Street*. So he called Steven Spielberg.

"He said that, in principle, remakes are not a very good idea," Attenborough recalled. "But ('34th Street') was such a perennial, seen over and over again at Christmas,

there really was justification of bringing it up a little closer to the time. There are advantages of color and recording and putting it into the context of television and computers, which made easier for young people to identify with."

Branagh, director and star of *Frankenstein*, said: "I suppose I avoid the word 'remake' in the way I think about it, because I come from the theatre into movies, and I've been in piles of remakes all the way through my theatrical career. You're always re-doing things. ...

"So when I come to a film like *Henry V*, which had been done spectacularly before (Sir Laurence Olivier won an honorary Oscar for acting, producing and directing the 1944 version), or in this case,

Frankenstein, I regard that as a classic, and it has spawned classic movies. That gives you the license to do them again because they're for all time and for everyone in their classic status."

The granddaddy of remakes may be *The Three Godfathers*, which was made nine times from 1909 to 1975. One of the most memorable versions was John Ford's 1949 movie starring John Wayne.

Robin Hood is another off-told tale. There were noteworthy versions with Douglas Fairbanks in 1922 and Errol Flynn in 1939. But the 1991 redo starring Kevin Costner was a critical flop.

Perhaps the most successful of remakes is the 1989 *Batman*. The saga was filmed as a serial in 1943, then as a 1966 movie

with Adam West, Burt Ward and other cast members from the television series. Tim Burton's 1989 version starred Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson and won an Oscar for best art direction.

Sometimes it helps to add music. With Rex Harrison and Irene Dunne, *Anna And The King Of Siam* was a fair-sized hit in 1946. Rodgers and Hammerstein adapted it for the musical stage, and 10 years later *The King And I* with Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr was a solid success.

A Star Is Born (1937) became the classic movie about Hollywood, and starred Janet Gaynor and Frederic March. That didn't stop Judy Garland from remaking it with songs in 1954, and Barbra Streisand doing the same

in 1976 with Kris Kristofferson.

But history is replete with failed remakes. Among them:

— *Wuthering Heights*: 1939 classic earned an Oscar for Gregg Toland's camera work and nominations for director William Wyler and Olivier. The 1970 redo starred Timothy Dalton and Anna Calder-Marshall — and bombed.

— *King Kong*: Who could forget Fay Wray? 1976 had Jessica Lange with stronger sexual overtones.

— *Born Yesterday*: Judy Holliday won a much-deserved Oscar for her comedic talents. Melanie Griffith paled by comparison in the 1993 flop co-starring Don Johnson.

— *Grand Hotel*: The 1932 original starring Greta Garbo and John Barrymore won an Oscar.

— *Weekend At The Wallow*, a 1945 redo, didn't make the cut.

— *The Women*: There were lots of laughs and excellent acting in the 1939 movie. The *Opposite Sex* in 1956 had music and less bite. (Another remake is planned.)

— *Stagecoach*: The 1939 original with Claire Trevor and John Wayne became a classic, but the 1966 redo with Ann-Margret and Bing Crosby was horrendous. A made-for-TV movie in 1986 about country singers was even worse.

— *It Happened One Night*: The 1934 film earned an Oscar for best picture, and top acting prizes for Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable. You Can't Run Away From It in 1956 was a weak attempt.

Christmas preview: Feel-good movies, oscar candidates abound

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's warm, fuzzy and jolly and arrives in shopping malls at Christmas.

Not the Santa Claus armada—the holiday film lineup.

From Arnold Schwarzenegger's comic turn as a pregnant man to Michael Keaton and Geena Davis as dueling speechwriters, feel-good laughs are the trend in another particularly competitive holiday season.

"Christmas movies are about laughs," says John Pasquin, the director of *The Santa Clause*, the just-released comedy starring Tim Allen. "But you have to feel a little goody at the end."

"It's apparently the right formula: The Santa Clause enjoyed the best live-action opening in Walt Disney Co. history with a gross of \$19.3 million last weekend in the United States.

Since many families

come together at Christmas for the only time all year, Hollywood is courting them with movies geared to all-together-now outings. Last Friday alone, Disney re-released in the United States *The Lion King*, 20th Century Fox gave *A Miracle On 34th Street* a modern-day makeover and the two enterprise captains collided in Paramount Picture's *Star Trek: Generations*.

"Families are looking for something to do together," says Ivan Reitman, who directed Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito in *Junior*. The director says the movie, opening Wednesday in the United States, can be enjoyed by all of Reitman's children — aged 17, 13, 6.

"It's always tough finding something that works for everybody," the director of *Twins* and *Kinder Garten Cop* says.

Says Pasquin, the father of sons aged 4 and 7: "It

was really important for me to do something both kids and parents can enjoy. People like to go out with their kids and go see a movie over the holidays."

What seems to work best this time of year is a fusion of comedy and emotion. The result is often naked sentimentality, but if that's what the audience wants, so what? Look at *Home Alone*.

The fourth highest-grossing film of all time came out in the winter of 1990, and it was heavy with gushy, uplifting emotions.

To make sure audiences leave theatres upbeat, MGM at some expense re-shot the ending of *Speechless*, which romantically links Keaton and Davis. The movie's theme is that love can bring together two people with divergent political beliefs.

"This is light romantic comedy that makes you feel good," says Ron

Underwood, the film's director and the maker of *City Slickers*.

"It's a very optimistic viewpoint — a more hopeful look at life."

"It's definitely not a political story," he says. "It takes place against a backdrop of a political campaign, but these two characters could be in the advertising business or in the textile business."

In the reworked *Miracle On 34th Street*, a new antagonist emerges, making Kriss Kringle's (Richard Attenborough) struggle more gripping. And *Mom* (Elizabeth Perkins) has a new set of contemporary worries.

Writer-producer John Hughes says less than 5 per cent of the dialogue from the 1947 original remains. "It was in that 1940s lingo — it just didn't ring true," Hughes says. "It's really interesting. Hughes says of the new version. "If you run it side

by side with the original, most of it is changed. But the (new version) feels the same — it embraces you."

Home Improvement star Tim Allen doesn't just don a Santa suit in *The Santa Clause*. He takes on his shortcomings as a divorced father. Director Pasquin says early scripts focused solely played like a one-joke gag. Extensive rewrites made it more emotionally connective, Pasquin believes.

In *Junior*, one of show business' biggest action stars becomes pregnant in a novel science experiment. Great with child, Schwarzenegger's character becomes a more sensitive, complex person.

"I thought the concept was a liability, and we're finding it a liability right now — it sounds too gimmicky," says Reitman, noting that male moviegoers may also find the premise troublesome. "But I think there is a lovely emotional core to it that gives it a depth the concept doesn't tell you about."

With the year's end quickly approaching, a



Director Ivan Reitman (left) left: Danny DeVito, Emma Thompson and Arnold Schwarzenegger cast of the film *Junior*. From *zenegger*

number of high-quality projects will unspool one after another and sometimes on top of each other. (A film must debut in the United States before Jan. 1 to qualify for

Academy Awards.) Six major titles will debut Christmas Day in the United States, and among the Oscar-caliber Christmas releases are Susan Sarandon Foster in *Nell*,

Albert Finney in *A Man Of No Importance*, Paul Newman in *Nobody's Fool*, Tommy Lee Jones as Cobb and Anthony Hopkins in *Legends Of The Fall*.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

IS THERE AN ECHO?

By Harold B. Counts

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Diagramless 21A x 19D

By Frances Burton

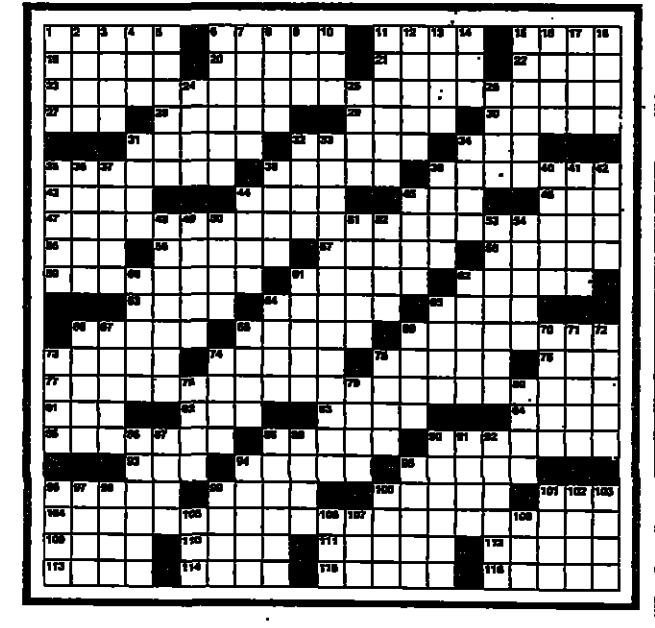
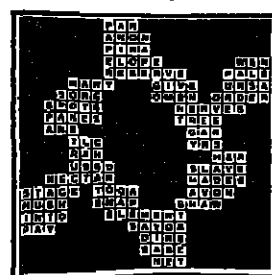
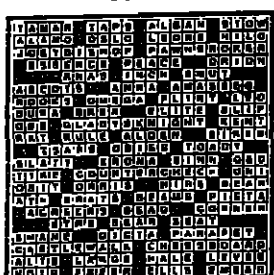
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Diagramless 21A x 19D

By Frances Burton

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5. Travel players
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Prince Hassan: Peace must be whole to be real, just to be lasting and tangible to be effective

Following is an address His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan gave to the Oxford Union Society on Nov. 20.

I MUST thank you, Mr. President for receiving me in your thematic series on the Middle East, thank you also for your kind introduction. It is a great honour to be in this august chamber once again; and it is always a pleasure to justify spending time in Oxford. Among my happiest memories are the years I had at university as an undergraduate. I do not think there is a better setting than this in which to work, and to enjoy oneself. However, some of my darkest hours were also spent in Oxford. The June war of 1967 began as I was preparing to sit my finals. So it gives me particular satisfaction and a certain sense of vindication to stand before this House today, and to tell you that Jordan has at last achieved its cherished aim and made its peace with Israel.

Oct. 26 will go down as a rare day of hope in the annals of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was the day a treaty of peace was finally signed between Jordan and Israel—but what is more important is a treaty of amity and economic cooperation. It marked a new beginning, a fresh dawn for our troubled region. The ratification of the treaty means that our future is no longer dominated by the political legacy of the past, but by the promise of the future.

It is our shared responsibility to make real that promise for our peoples. Peace is indivisible. It must be whole to be real; it must be just to be lasting; and it must be tangible to be effective. An indivisible peace will touch the lives of all, young and old, irrespective of gender, colour, race or creed. It influences all conditions, physical as well as psychological; and it removes all barriers, actual

and imaginary.

I would like today to outline for you the nature of our achievement: the treaty itself and its provisions. I would like then to consider what we will need to achieve in the future if we are to make good on the promise of peace and I would be glad to speak further on these issues during questions.

The treaty addresses all the significant issues of the conflict: These include land, boundary and security arrangement, the management of water resources, navigation and civil aviation, tourism, economic relations, free trade and refugees. Some of these issues have been resolved; others are subject to future negotiations.

The treaty for the mutual recognition of Jordan and Israel. For the first time in our history we have defined the two countries, demarcating the boundary between them. The treaty safeguards the integrity of Jordan, and affirms its sovereignty over all threat or use of force; and will ensure that threats or acts of violence against the other do not originate from their territory.

It was often said that the next Middle East war would be fought over water. This serious bone of contention has also been addressed in detail. The treaty commits both parties to ensure that the management and development of their water resources do not harm the flow of the other and incidentally does not affect directly or indirectly the upper or lower riparians. Syria and the Palestinians. In addition, we will cooperate to construct diversion and storage dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, to better serve the common interest.

This idea, of a common interest, is fundamental to peace. Our people share the natural resources of God's creation. The treaty signals

our determination to pool and distribute them in a partnership of equals. We have resisted, and we will not accept, the concept of victor and vanquished in the development of these resources. We seek, to build a new world, to create new conditions, where all peoples will enjoy the fruits of peace. The walls which separated us for so long have been broken down. The river which yesterday divided us will now become a shared source of life.

The Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and Israel in July provided for our national electricity grids to be linked: a powerful symbol, as well as a mutually beneficial trans-national enterprise. The peace treaty goes further, committing us to the joint development of the Jordan Rift Valley, from the southern edge of Lake Tiberias all the way down to the Dead Sea. It is our intention to transform the valley into a show case of the durability of peace and the benefits of cooperation between Arabs and Jews. We also intend to cooperate in areas such as tourism, archaeology, maritime studies and broader academic and cultural work.

The need for the flow of goods and services has been acknowledged by the treaty. Both countries have agreed to remove all discriminatory barriers in order to normalise economic relations. The significance of this provision cannot be overestimated, and I will return to this theme when I come to discuss the prospects for the future.

The two countries recognise the strategic importance of free navigation and the security of maritime trade, and will consider the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba as international waterways. It is worth remembering that in June 1967, it was the closure of these straits that was the spark that initiated that war.

The shipping lanes are open for business; freedom of navigation is now unimpeded and non-suspendible. The two parties also accept that each other's civil aircraft have the right through each other's airspace.

One of the treaty's more forward-looking provisions is its commitment to the creation of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME). This entails the adoption of a regional forum, loosely based on the GSCCE model that has developed in Europe over 20 years from the Helsinki process.

If the Middle East is to enjoy a stable future, it must find a neutral idiom in which to discuss common challenges, and a credible framework for collective action. To this end, Jordan has long called for a CSCME. A forum of this sort, neutral and low-key in nature, might be the best place to address contentious regional issues which could easily disrupt the hard-won peace. A CSCME might provide a focus for non-military solutions: for surely it is plain to all that military solutions are not solutions at all. The recognition of common goals and aspirations, the building of inter-connection and mutual aid: these are the only lasting solutions. A CSCME would encompass a commitment to certain fundamentals, as in Europe; and it would assist in the evolution of a common regional vision and identity for our region. Whilst almost every other region in the world has been rehabilitated, the Middle East has not, and if we don't do something soon, as a region we will be left behind.

Security arrangements based on these principles would greatly facilitate the reconstruction of the region. It is certainly clear that the economic aspect of peace will be paramount. The Arab-

Israeli conflict has shattered our economies. Massive and constant expenditure on arms has wasted the region's resources, preventing investment in more productive areas. We are talking about \$1 trillion since the Gulf war — \$2 million a minute. Numerous papers and plans, drawn up by experts from governments, banks, universities and think-tanks, have highlighted the desperate need for strong economic and social underpinnings to national and regional peace and security.

The World Bank argues that average income per head must grow by at least 5 per cent a year if this region is to enjoy political stability. This should not be impossible, but it has proved elusive so far. From 1980 to 1992, average income per head in the non-oil economies of the region, like that of Jordan, grew by only around 1 per cent a year, and that was a period of great optimism and hope in many parts of the world. Those who seek to help the Middle East towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous future would do well to consider how best to pursue this objective.

These and related matters were discussed in earnest at the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca at the end of October where the trilogy of government, international financial institutions and the private sector were represented and actively involved.

We seek a new economic development paradigm, combining government and private investment in cross-boundary joint ventures to stimulate rapid, shared and sustainable growth. Governments can promote private sector-led growth by undertaking administrative, legal and fiscal reforms. They can also play their part by channelling public investment away from the military and into services like education, health, transport and communications, which directly benefit individuals and businesses. We have just hosted a conference on the "Human Dimension of the Peace Process" which was well attended by the international community and it was very clear that peace making is not just about statistics but about people and all the people of the Middle East. It is not easy for Jordanian and Israeli businessmen to sit

together and Casablanca provided the first opportunity in history for them to do so. It is the people to people relationships that are so very important in peace-building.

At Casablanca, we laid the foundations for a two-tier partnership for prosperity among the states of the region, and between the region and the world. We are dismantling the psychological barriers to regional and international cooperation. Our ultimate aim is to open up national economies to the unrestricted flow of pan-regional trade, investment and the transfer of technology.

International support for the reconstruction of the Middle East will be crucial. Our hope is that governments, international finance, multinational corporations and ordinary businesses will work in concert to rebuild our devastated region. In Casablanca, the participants resolved to set up a Regional Development Bank to harness these efforts. However, we do not envisage a Regional Development Bank merely under the aegis of the World Bank and IMF.

It is worth considering the issue of income disparities at this point. One consequence of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been the rise of disparities both within the region and between the region and the developed world. The World Bank estimates that by 2010, 7 million Israelis will achieve a GDP nearly equal to that of 130 million Arabs in the neighbouring countries. Average income levels are over \$12,000 per capita in Israel, a major aid recipient, while that of the Mashreq Arabs is no more than \$800. Such disparities militate against a sustainable peace, providing ammunition for those who reject it. Appropriate measures are needed to fashion a balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the European Union (EU) bear consideration in this regard.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has also caused huge social dislocation, with far-reaching political consequences. The problems of dispossession and despair must be assessed and redressed. Israel should not simply express satisfaction with official Arab recognition, and commercial ties with Arab states. The refugee problem remains, and all

efforts must be made to find a fair solution to this human tragedy.

We have always maintained that peace must be comprehensive if it is to endure. We have come a long way since President Sadat's mould-breaking visit to Jerusalem in 1977, and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979. The participation of Palestinian negotiators at Madrid in 1991 turned the key that unlocked the door to comprehensive peace. The Declaration of Principles and mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO put the destiny of the Palestinian people, at last, into the hands of their sole legitimate representatives, the PLO. Talks between the two parties continue under the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement of May 1994. It is our hope that these talks will soon be successfully concluded.

Given good intentions, progress in peace negotiations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon respectively should not be too far off. President Assad made clear Syria's intention to establish "peaceful, normal relations with Israel" when President Clinton visited Damascus last month. The quid pro quo of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 — the exchange of land for peace — is accepted by both sides, and the issues of security guarantees and the timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces should not be too problematic.

During the Arab-Israeli conflict, state security was the prime objective of government. The political map of the Middle East will be utterly changed by the termination of conflict. In an era of peace, modes of governance in the region must allow for great popular participation. And just as Jordan has responded to the challenge of peace, so too it is rising to these challenges.

The institutionalisation of political pluralism proceeds apace. We are also committed to human rights, irrespective of ethnicity, creed or gender. We recognise that democracy is not confined to the holding of elections, and we certainly do not lack a vibrant domestic debate. The parliamentary opposition has expressed its view freely and openly, while the majority voted to ratify the treaty. In choosing peace, they repre-

sented the wishes of the great majority of Jordanians. This is not to deny that some still oppose peace with Israel. In Jordan our body politic accommodates those who express their opposition through constitutional means. The use of terror, on the other hand, has always been anathema to us and we stand firmly against those who use violence for political ends. We must frustrate their aims, not by wielding the coercive force available to the state, but by removing the underlying causes of extremism. I have tried to address the political and socio-economic issues, and I would like to conclude by considering the cultural and religious dimension.

Let it be clear that the Arab-Israeli conflict was never a conflict between religions. The three great monotheistic faiths — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — share considerable elements of history and belief. However, only if one makes the effort to understand one's neighbour will peace be genuine. Peace is, after all, a new experience for our peoples. They must learn to nourish its culture and observe its norms. Intangible factors such as religion will be crucial in this respect. With this in mind, we have for some years been promoting interfaith dialogue in an attempt to determine the moral and spiritual foundations common to all. A Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies has already been set up in Jordan; while in Britain an Interfaith Foundation will soon be established as a charitable trust. The treaty between Jordan and Israel acknowledges the continuing importance of this work.

In our consultations, we are striving to find the interconnections and interdependence between peoples, cultures and religions, while respecting their diversity. We are seeking to identify and build upon common fundamentals. We are not attempting to abandon our cultural baggage, or our history, or our faith; but merely to understand these for what they are, and to acknowledge that other people also have a culture, a history, a faith. This, surely, goes to the heart of all our endeavours. For only when we can think in this way will we be able to live in peace with each other, and in peace with our world.

Israel ready for withdrawal

(Continued from page 1)

between Israel and Syria to be resumed. The talks which have made no progress since they were launched in Oct. 1991, have been stalled since 30 Muslims were gunned down by a Jewish settler in a West Bank mosque in February.

Mr. Rabin repeated calls for Syria to follow the example of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan to agree to secret or high-level talks in a bid to unblock the process.

The timetable and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is one of the main stumbling blocks.

But Mr. Rabin said differences also remained on the stages of a withdrawal and measures to normalise relations.

"By announcing that we were ready to accept the principle of a withdrawal from the Golan without fixing the limits of peace we made at once an exceptional gesture and act."

During his three-day visit to Washington Mr. Rabin met with Mr. Clinton and aides as well as members of the new Republican majority in Congress, and called for U.S. troops to be sent to the Golan as part of a multinational force of observers.

But the idea was coolly received by Republican Jesse Helms, due to take the chair of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher admitted that such a deployment "may be more controversial."

Security arrangements on the Heights which command a strategic viewpoint over northern Israel are an essential part of any peace treaty with Syria.

Israel Radio said Wednesday that Washington had agreed to supply Israel with an airborne alert system to replace warning radar stations sited in the area.

Mr. Rabin has promised to hold a referendum before any major withdrawal from the plateau.

But he said Israel had to continue with the negotiations "otherwise we will not achieve anything."

Mr. Rabin was expected to arrive in Canada late on Wednesday.

In Damascus, the government daily Al Thawra said the ball was in Israel's court.

"Rabin, during his visit to Washington, was expected to give clear and plain answers to Syrian questions which U.S. President Clinton had carried with him following the Damascus summit," the daily said. "But unfortunately

ly he (Rabin) evaded that." The daily did not elaborate on the alleged questions, but said progress in the Mideast peace process "is contingent on eliminating the various Israeli obstacles."

It reiterated that Syria was "ready to submit to all requirements of a just and comprehensive peace."

Other Israeli leaders also painted a gloomy picture of peace talks with Syria on Wednesday.

"We don't have enough wind to go ahead," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Associated Press.

The pessimistic assessment came amid reports that Syria, along with Iran, had begun assembling North Korean-made Scud C missiles.

The Davar daily quoted a senior Israeli official in Washington as saying that Syria and Iran were also receiving the equipment to manufacture the entire missile themselves.

Scud-Cs have a range of 500-kilometre, fired from the Syrian-Israeli frontier, they could reach any target in Israel.

Despite the peace talks, Israel must be prepared for the possibility of war, Davar quoted the official as saying. Such a war would involve an unprecedented use of ground-to-ground missiles, the daily said.

GCC willing to normalise ties

(Continued from page 1)

"The stand of the GCC countries is clear on this, to bring stability and assurance that what Iraq did will not be repeated."

"The conviction prevails that all U.N. Security Council demands are to be met fully and that this is what will guarantee stability in the future."

Sheikh Mohammad said the foreign ministers will submit a report to their leaders, but he noted that there was no final declaration or recommendations.

He said the atmosphere was one of "strength, love and frankness" with the aim of achieving joint action in the security, economic and political fields.

In his opening address to the conference on Tuesday, Sheikh Mohammad underscored the need for a united defence strategy for the region, which sits on two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

He also called for closer coordination on foreign policy and speedier moves toward economic union.

Fateh unites against Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian police. One Fateh leader defended Arafat's decision as crucial "to deter Hamas as long as Hamas insists on its armed opposition to the PNA."

Mr. Arafat hopes that once Fateh shows its strength, Hamas would be reluctant to challenge the authority. Palestinian political observers in Gaza argue that Mr. Arafat is also trying to silence all dissent by cracking down on Hamas.

Some Fateh leaders are wary that Mr. Arafat would abandon reforms once he secures the full backing of Fateh against Hamas.

But demands for reforms of the PNA departments and Fateh had become pressing two weeks ago after Fateh hardliners, who refuse to transform the movement into a party and are critical of Mr. Arafat, made a big show at Fateh's elections in Ramallah.

The results of the elections sent shock waves in the West Bank and Gaza as the movement was on the verge of breaking up into splinter groups.

The debate that followed the elections revealed divisions within the higher Fateh committee in the West Bank over the aim of the elections and the role of Fateh.

For while most trends in Fateh agree that it should remain part of the PNA there was no agreement on what kind of link should be between the PNA and Fateh.

Marwan Barghouti, one of the main advocates of transforming Fateh into a political party, said that Fateh should remain independent of the PNA but restructure itself to adapt to the new era.

But his critics, who became very vocal after the Ramallah elections, charged that he was trying to tailor Fateh to suit the

purposes of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

The main body of Fateh, at least as the Ramallah elections illustrated, was in favour of keeping the Fateh platform intact. In practical terms, it means that Fateh continues its struggle to establish a Palestinian state without limiting itself to the Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

"Ramallah showed that if elections continued the hardcore fighters will take over Fateh. They believe in clandestine revolutionary action and refuse to be limited by the aims of the agreements signed with Israel," said one Ramallah-based Fateh activist.

The Fateh higher committee in the West Bank had to resort to Mr. Arafat for arbitration who in turn ordered the elections put off "to prevent the splintering of Fateh."


But some Fateh activists believe that Mr. Arafat stopped the elections for

fear that his critics would prevail, since they seemed more in line, politically at least, with Fateh central committee members Farouk Kaddoumi, Abbas Zaki and Hani Al Hassan who oppose the agreements with Israel.

But the Friday bloodshed and more so the challenging demonstrations by Hamas the second day had reunified Fateh ranks, at least for the time being.


Fateh officials contacted on Wednesday rejected arguments that the polarisation between Fateh and Hamas could lead Gaza into civil war. "Hamas has to stop its armed opposition and then Fateh will press for laws that guarantee freedom of all Palestinian groups to operate, demonstrate and express their views."

"If Fateh becomes weak, the only alternative is Hamas. We are not going to allow that to happen," the Fateh official said.



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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	HongKong Close
Sterling Pound	1.5691	1.5732**
Deutsche Mark	1.5535	1.5497
Swiss Franc	1.3175	1.3113**
French Franc	5.3355	5.3210**
Japanese Yen	98.31	98.11
European Currency Unit	1.2235	1.2270**

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Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.08	6.12	6.43
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.81	6.25	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.81	5.00	5.06	5.37
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.68	3.93	4.31
French Franc	5.55	5.43	5.62	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.20	2.28	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.60	5.55	6.06	6.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.0 million USD or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	364.50	7.60	Silver	5.17	0.117

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0971	1.1026
Deutsche Mark	0.4500	0.4523
Swiss Franc	0.5310	0.5337
French Franc	0.1370	0.1377
Japanese Yen	0.7108	0.7144
Dutch Guilder	0.4015	0.4035
Swedish Krona	0.0434	0.0436
Italian Lira	0.0434	0.0436
Belgian Franc	0.0434	0.0436

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8550	1.8480
Lebanese Lira	0.041180	0.042425
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1866
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3100	0.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1906	0.1916
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7940	1.6150
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.0735	0.0750
Cypriot Pound	1.5966	1.5145

GCC links on chemical sales, projects urged

DOHA (R) — Arab Gulf petrochemical producers should set up a joint marketing company to sell their exports, particularly their fertilizers, an official has said.

"It would be prudent to establish a marketing company for petrochemical and chemical fertilizers among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) companies," said Youssef Ibrahim Fakhroo, marketing manager of Bahrain-based Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC).

"The main reason is the similarity in the type of product they produce, such as ammonia and urea. Also, GCC fertilizer producers sell to the same markets, and possess equal cost advantages because they all use the same raw material — natural gas — as feedstock," he explained.

Mr. Fakhroo was speaking to a conference in Qatar on petrochemicals in the GCC, which comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Coordination between Gulf producers, who account for about five per cent of the world petrochemical market, is being discussed at the conference as a possible way of giving the region's growing industry the best chance of expanding sales and penetrating new markets.

Proponents of the idea cite overcapacity in Asia, and the possibility of continuing trade barriers despite the implementation next year of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as potential barriers that cooperation could overcome.

But some analysts say Saudi Arabia's domination of the industry would make cooperation among the six states problematic and say that in any case world and particularly Asian demand is forecast to remain healthy for the next decade.

GPIC, a joint venture of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, was the first petrochemicals joint venture among GCC states and is so far the only major one. It exports over 400,000 tonnes a year of methanol and over 400,000 tonnes a year of ammonia.

It is a small operation compared to Saudi Basic Industries Corp which produces over 15 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals.

Some delegates said more production joint ventures between Gulf producers would be a more successful way of streamlining the industry than marketing, which might entail direct conflict in selling the competing products of member states.

Daily Business Beat

☆☆ The budget for next year will total JD1,650 million, about JD150 million above the 1994 total. Revenues are expected to increase and, for the second year in a row, fully cover recurrent spending. Revenues in the 1994 budget were estimated at JD1,275 million. The '95 budget, which was approved by the Cabinet and is to be submitted to Parliament on Saturday, maintained food subsidies at JD30 million and allocated the necessary funds to support the Awqaf in Jerusalem (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ Three banks registered in Jordan have obtained approval from the central bank to open branches in the West Bank. These banks, which did not have branches there before 1967, are still awaiting the necessary approval from the Israeli authorities to start operating in Palestinian territories (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ Consumers will be facing higher prices and shortages of vegetables this year because of the September heat waves and scarcity of irrigation water. Farmers said marketing bottlenecks, unsteady agricultural policies, high costs of production and cash problems as well as heavy debts were also reasons behind the short supply of vegetables and their high prices (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ The Jordan Hijaz Railway Corporation is conducting studies to build new railways and transfer the Jordan Hijaz railway to an antiquity and touristic attraction (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ Floods have caused a tremendous loss to Al Azraq Cooperative Society. About 40,000 tonnes of salt, worth JD880,000, were washed away and damages to infrastructure and equipment brought the total damages to about JD1,043,000 (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Director-General Saad Al Tal denied there was any government intention to raise fuel charges at this time. "We have absolutely no knowledge about this subject," he said (Ad-Dustour).

☆☆ The price of aluminium is rising following higher international prices for the metal. Jordan aluminium company Aral is selling the tonne for JD2,760. The price of aluminium has risen by JD600 a tonne since May until last October. As a result, aluminium sold to consumers costs JD38 per metre. Prices are expected to continue rising gradually until February.

1995 (Ad-Dustour)

☆☆ The government has no intention to privatise the water distribution sector. What will be under discussion is the privatisation of collection of charges, laying down of water networks as well as their maintenance. Consumers owe the Ministry of Water and Irrigation JD11 million. At present consumers pay 250 fils per cubic metre while the cost is 350 fils (Sawt Al Shaab).

☆☆ Production of gas from Al Rishah field has increased and the average daily output is now 35 cubic metres. When production started in 1989, the daily production volume averaged 18 million cubic metres (Sawt Al Shaab).

☆☆ Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Director General Salem Al Lawzi denied all reports over Israeli rejection of Jordanian tomatoes for not meeting technical or health specifications. He emphasised that up until now only five tonnes of tomatoes were exported over the Jordan River. Bridge and it was neither rejected nor returned for any of the reasons mentioned in newspaper. Dr. Lawzi said AMO does not allow any agricultural export except after physical checks to insure it meets importers' specifications (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The communications sector is currently under a comprehensive review and detailed restructuring. The trend is towards liberalising the sector and branching it on commercial basis as a transitory period on the road to full privatisation — post and communications minister (Sawt Al Shaab).

☆☆ The association of truck owners complained in a memorandum to the Ministry of Transport that they are exploited by transport offices which try to hire Syrian or other Arab trucks. The memorandum pointed out that Jordanian trucks going to Gulf states do not represent more than 10 per cent of all Arab trucks. The association recommended setting up a unified dispatching office which can control the matter and enforce discipline. The memorandum also urged the government to reconsider the tariff charges as they are disproportionate to operations' costs (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The 1995 budget for the governorate of Tafleeh is JD17 million, which will be spent mostly on opening and asphalted roads (Al Ra'i).

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3746/56	Canadian dollar
	1.5474/84	Deutsche marks
	1.7344/54	Dutch guilders
	1.3106/16	Swiss francs
	31.52/86	Belgian francs
	5.3138/88	French francs
	1600.01/0	Italian lire
	97.94/04	Japanese yen
	7.3575/75	Swedish crowns
	6.7780/30	Norwegian crowns
	6.0678/28	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5748/58	
One ounce of gold	\$384.40/384.90	

Bahraini aluminium firm to raise output

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Co. (GARMCO) has said it is raising production capacity by around 80 per cent by the end of 1995 amid expectation of higher aluminium prices.

General Manager John Paterson said the \$60 million expansion would raise GARMCO's production to between 11,000 and 120,000 tonnes a year from 65,000 tonnes now.

Mr. Paterson said a second-hand U.S. rolling mill

at Hawesville which GARMCO bought from the U.S. firm Alumax in February 1994 was being shipped to Bahrain.

"GARMCO's \$60 million expansion project... is progressing with the completion of the dismantling of the Hawesville plant," he told Reuters.

The plant is due to arrive in Bahrain in the first quarter of 1995 and will come on stream before the end of 1995, he said.

Mr. Paterson said GARMCO had opened an aluminium service centre in Singapore, a joint venture with a Singapore-based Perse Metals Ltd. to sell aluminium products.

He said the centre was expected to sell between 6,000 and 10,000 tonnes of flat rolled products to local industries.

Mr. Paterson said GARMCO was proceeding with a joint venture to set up a coil coating line in Bahrain. He gave no details but said the facility would have a production capacity to coat 30,000 tonnes of aluminium and 38,000 tonnes of steel.

Bahrain-based GARMCO, is owned by Gulf Arab states, with Bahrain holding a 38 per cent stake and Saudi Arabia's industrial giant Saudi Basic Industries 31 per cent.

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Bilbao upset Parma as Real, Coruna advance; Lazio, Leverkusen set sights on quarterfinals

PARIS (AFP) — All three Spanish clubs on UEFA Cup duty won their matches Tuesday — Athletic Bilbao and Deportivo Coruna scoring single goal home victories over Parma and Borussia Dortmund, and Real Madrid recovering after going behind in the first half to snatch a 3-2 win at Odense.

Athletic Bilbao, who looked to be on their way out of the competition when they trailed English opponents Newcastle 3-0 in the second round, first leg, upset Italian league leaders Parma thanks to a Jose Angel Ziganda headed goal early in the second half.

Ziganda's near post header from a Jon Andoni Goicoechea cross in the 48th minute was enough to ensure that the 1992/93 European Cup Winners' Cup winners will need at least two goals in

the return if they are to reach the quarter-finals.

The Basque club dominated the first half hour before Parma came back into the match. Only confusion on the six-yard line prevented Parma opening the score in time added on in the first half.

UEFA CUP

And after the break, Parma had a goal disallowed after a foul by Portugal's Fernando Couto on Bilbao keeper Juan Valencia.

Deportivo clinched their win when Bebetto cleverly controlled a badly-cleared ball by the Borussia defence and volleyed home after 22 minutes. But the 22,000 spectators had to survive some worrying moments in the second half. First Mattheus Sammer was only narrowly

wide with a 35 metres free kick and then Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat actually had the ball in the net before being ruled off-side.

Real Madrid produced an exciting last-minute victory at Odense thanks to a Michael Laudrup goal in the dying

to have the last word.

Lazio, who crashed to Boavista Porto in the second round last season, came away 2-1 winners from Trabzonspor, Turkey.

Roberto Raubaudi's 60th minute goal, and Paolo Negro's effort two minutes later should be enough for a quarter-final spot. Karaman Unal pulled one back for Trabzonspor.

Bayer Leverkusen also look near-certain for a place in the last eight after scoring a 4-1 victory at Poland's GKS Katowice. Ulf Kirsten and Hans-Peter Lehmann both scored twice for Leverkusen.

Real Madrid added a second Spanish triumph in the competition when they came back after trailing to a half-time goal to beat Danish opponents Odense 3-2 away. Michel Schjoenberg put

the home side clear just before half-time, but the Danes were stunned by two goals in three minutes midway through the second-half.

First Ivan Zamorano was on target and then Jose Amavisca put Real 2-1 clear.

Second-half substitute Jesper Hjordt looked to have salvaged a draw for the home side when he scored ten minutes from time but Michael Laudrup scored a last-gasp winner for the Spaniards in the dying seconds.

The only sour note for Real was that they will be without Fernando Hierro, Quique Flores and Ivan Zamorano for the return leg in two weeks time. All three were shown yellow cards.

Odense also have a player suspended for the return in Madrid — Michael Hemmingsen also earning a warning.

Li breaks five records, bags 3 golds

ISTANBUL (R) — Li Hongyun kept the Chinese teenage women in command with victory in the 64 kilogramme class at the World Weightlifting Championships Tuesday.

Eighteen-year-old Li, who won the world title in Melbourne last year, lifted 105 kg in the snatch and 130 in the jerk to total 235 and break five world records in the process.

Kuo Su-Fen of Taiwan came in second with 205 and Hungarian Erzsébet Marcus was third with 197.5.

Li, who reportedly lifted

an amazing 145 snatch and 157.5 jerk in the Chinese Championships last year, said a neighbour told her to try the sport when she began beating up boys at primary school.

She said she did eat the turtle blood soup made famous by China's women runners, but felt her success lay more in her five hours' training daily.

Li is the only experienced Chinese woman lifter to come to the championships, but China's young first-timers are ensuring their older compatriots are not missed.

Teenagers Yun Yanyong, Wang Cheng and Zou Fei won the 46, 54 and 59 kg categories and China did not enter the 50 kg.

None of them had competed in a big championship before.

China hold all the women's combined weightlifting world records but those who won at the Asian Games in Hiroshima last month decided it was too soon to compete again in the worlds.

Chinese team officials say the men will catch the rest of the world by the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Blazers end Rockets' winning streak

HOUSTON (AP) — The Rockets' 23-game November winning streak ended when Clyde Drexler returned to the Portland lineup and led the Trail Blazers to a 102-94 victory Tuesday night.

Drexler, who missed two games with a right ankle injury, scored 30 points. Cliff Robinson added 29 points for the Trail Blazers, who lost all four games to the Rockets last season.

Houston, 9-1 this season, got 27 points from Hakeem Olajuwon and 20 from Vernon Maxwell. The loss was the first for the Rockets in the month of November since a 108-99 setback to the Utah Jazz Nov. 28, 1992.

Last season, the Rockets were 14-0 in November and won their first game in December before experiencing defeat.

On Tuesday night, the Trail Blazers outscored the Rockets 15-9 over the final 5:21 as Houston's shooting went cold. Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich was ejected with 1:46 to play after screaming at referee Terry Durham.

★ Cavaliers 112, Timberwolves 79

In Cleveland, seven Cleveland players were in double figures, and the Cavaliers collected 37 points off turnovers while handing Minnesota its worst loss this season.

Mark Price led Cleveland with 17 points, and Tony Campbell had 16. Bobby Phills and Chris Mills scored 15 each.

The Timberwolves, losers in nine of their 10 games, got 14 points, but only three rebounds, from Christian Laettner, eight of Minnesota losses have been by double-figure margins.

Donyell Marshall added 13 points for visiting Minnesota, a 115-85 loser to Houston Nov. 5.

★ Hawks 102, 76ers 99

In Atlanta, Stacey Augmon scored 23 points, including a short jumper with 11 seconds to play as Atlanta kept Philadelphia winless on the road.

The loss was the fourth in a row on the road for the 76ers.

The streak is seven dating to last season. Atlanta won for the third time in 10 games.

Philadelphia led 98-97 after Willie Burton hit a layup for the last of his 22 points with 1:40 to play. Grant Long tied the score with a free throw with 1:17 left and Steve Smith gave the Hawks the lead for good with two free throws with 46 seconds to play after a Philadelphia turnover.

Mookie Blaylock added 15 points and 11 assists for Atlanta. Shawn Bradley had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia.

★ Bucks 116, Celtics 94

In Hartford, Connecticut, Todd Day had 23 points and Vin Baker 20 as Milwaukee used a strong second half to end Boston's three-game winning streak.

Baker, playing at the Hartford Civic Centre for the first time since he attended the University of Hartford, scored 14 points in the second half. Glenn Robinson added 17 points and Eric Murdock, activated Monday after missing seven games with an eye injury, came off the bench to score 15.

Rick Fox, who missed the past two games with a hip injury, returned to the lineup and paced the Celtics with 16 points, all in the second half. Dino Radja added 15. Dominique Wilkins, who played with his right leg taped up after straining his hamstring in the first quarter, scored 14.

The Bucks trailed 49-46 at the half, but outscored the Celtics 31-12 in the first 9 minutes of the third quarter.

★ Hornets 102, Warriors 98

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Hersey Hawkins scored seven of his 18 points in a decisive fourth-quarter stretch, helping Charlotte hold off Golden State.

The Warriors were trying to set a team record for consecutive road victories at the start of the season. Charlotte tried to help by being whistled for four technical fouls — two in the fourth quarter for illegal defence and a third in that period on the bench.

Golden State literally gave away its shot at five straight

road wins, committing 20 turnovers. Two of those came in the last two minutes, and the Warriors allowed the Hornets to open a small advantage that led to the victory.

Alonzo Mourning led Charlotte with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Johnson had 19 points and Muggsy Bogues 13 points with 11 assists.

Latrell Sprewell finished with 30 points to lead Golden State.

★ Bulls 105, Clippers 93

In Los Angeles, Ron Harper scored 21 points against his former teammates, and Chicago ran off 18 straight in a decisive fourth-quarter rally.

The Clippers (0-10) remained the NBA's only winless team after squandering a fourth-quarter lead for the second straight game. They led by eight points in the third quarter and were ahead 82-78 heading into the final 12 minutes.

Toni Kukoc's layup tied the game at 82-82. His next basket began the Bulls' 18-point run, including five by Harper, for a 100-85 lead with 3:25 to play.

Scottie Pippen added 17 points in 10 assists for the Bulls, who have a 10-game winning streak against the Clippers. Rookie Lamond Murray scored 16 points for Los Angeles.

★ Supersonics 104, Nets 97

In Tacoma, Washington, Gary Payton scored 26 points and made consecutive lay-ups during a late 6-0 Seattle run that put the Supersonics ahead to stay.

Shawn Kemp added 22 points and pulled down 17 rebounds for Seattle. He also sealed the victory by making two free throws with 23 seconds left.

The Nets set a franchise record by hitting 11 3-pointers, including three apiece by Chris Morris and Kevin Edwards.

Derrick Coleman scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for New Jersey, but Kenny Anderson scored only three points, and did not make a basket until less than 3 minutes remained.

FIA confirm Schumacher as world champion

PARIS (AFP) — Michael Schumacher's Formula One crown, won after a controversial final-race collision with Damon Hill, was confirmed Wednesday by FIA.

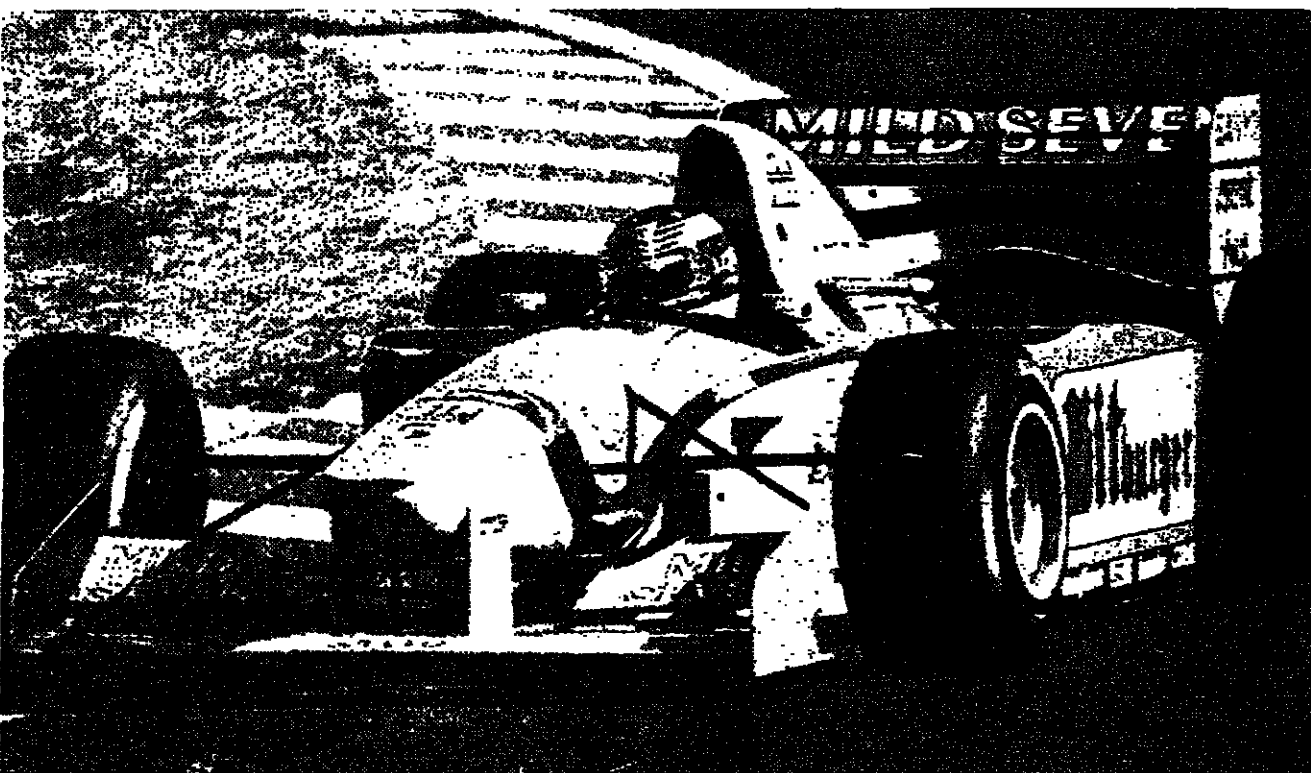
FIA made their announcement after the sport's chiefs examined the Adelaide Grand Prix crash earlier this month which put the German and English drivers out of the race, giving Schumacher a one-point champion win.

Hill, who had fallen out with Schumacher earlier in the season after the German branded him a second-class driver and a "little man," had refused to join a chorus of demands for an investigation.

He said he did not believe the world champion had deliberately crashed

into him and he later received an apology from Schumacher for his earlier criticisms.

FIA added: "To avoid a future World Championship being decided by a collision, the FIA will study the possibility of empowering



Germany's Michael Schumacher driving his Benetton-Ford at the Japanese GP earlier this month (AFP photo)

ing the stewards to allow the drivers involved to continue the race in spare cars.

or hold a run-off immediately after the race. That move could also

have been promoted by the infamous first-bend crash in 1990 between the late

Ayrton Senna and retired Frenchman Alain Prost at the Japanese Grand Prix.

Italy's price is right for Lalas

its World Cup stars.

Major League Soccer, the U.S. league postponed until 1996, plans to have a \$1.3 million salary limit per team. Lalas said more money might be needed to attract the talent to make MLS a success in the wake of the World

Cup.

"What would it take? That's difficult," he said. "Obviously I have to get paid. There are going to have to be concessions from MLS and the players. I have to make a living."

"I don't know what the hell it'll take. Put \$1.25 dollars in my pocket and the others can split the rest."

Lalas, 24, adores Italy and has adjusted to the rigors of the elite league.

"My life has changed a whole lot since World Cup," Lalas said. "The soccer here is incredible. I get to play in the best league in the world against the best players. The team has made me feel welcome here. I'm winging it, trying not to make any mis-

takes and playing it cool."

"You can't help but improve. Every Sunday I mark one of the best players in the world. It's a great experience for someone my age. I can see myself getting better, learning how to react and getting experience."

Lalas was named the U.S. college player of the year in 1991. He played in the 1992 Olympics despite a broken foot and his personality helped make World Cup come alive for U.S. fans.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Chinese champion to auction gold medal

BEIJING (R) — Liu Dong, China's 1,500-metre world champion runner, will auction her gold medal to raise money to pay for her training for the 1995 World Championships and 1996 Olympics. The Xinhua news agency said Wednesday. The Chinese world champion, dropped by China's supercoach Ma Junren after an argument, said she would sell the gold medal she won at the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993, Xinhua said.

Barkley not ready to play for Suns yet

PHOENIX (AP) — Charles Barkley, finally able to come off the injured list, will have to wait a little longer before rejoining the Phoenix Suns. The star forward has missed all nine of his team's National Basketball Association games this season because of a pulled stomach muscle. On Tuesday, the Suns said Barkley will sit out the home contest against the Los Angeles Clippers. "Charles is still recuperating, and we'll see him when he's healthy," coach Paul Westphal said. "No one the Suns suggests Barkley is thinking about retirement, a subject the 1993 NBA MVP discussed almost daily last season while he struggled with back pain caused by a bulging disk. Barkley consulted with specialists, listened to the entreaties of teammate Danny Ainge, who told him he'd be sorry if he retired at 31 and in late June began a rigorous back-strengthening programme, which sent him to training camp rejuvenated."

Work starts on Olympic venues

ATLANTA (AP) — A groundbreaking ceremony for 1996 Olympic tennis, archery and cycling venues was conducted here Tuesday, with the final products to provide competition sites for more than 1,000 participants. Stone Mountain Park, scheduled to be complete in time for pre-Olympic events next year, will feature a tennis stadium with 12,000 seats and 15 other courts with another 14,550 seats. Temporary venues will be constructed for archery and cycling, including a 5,000-seat archery stadium and a 6,000-seat velodrome with a 250-metre banked track. Both sites will be returned to their natural states after the Olympics.

Sweden stick with Davis Cup heroes

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden are sticking with their Davis Cup heroes for next month's final against Russia. Non-playing captain John-Anders Sjogren Tuesday named the same team who came back from 2-0 to beat the United States 3-2 in September's semifinals in Gothenburg. Stefan Edberg and Magnus Larsson are set for the singles with Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman on doubles duty. The clash with the Russians will be in Moscow from December 2-4 with the hosts making their first ever appearance in a Davis Cup final. Russia, who beat Germany in the semifinals, will field a team comprising Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Alexander Volkov, Andrei Olhovskiy with Andrei Cherkasov as the reserve. ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Dubai Desert Classic attracts world's top golfers

DUBAI (AP) — The top three golfers in the Sony World rankings, Nick Price, Greg Norman and Bernhard Langer will head the field for the (\$675,000) Dubai Desert Golf Classic scheduled for January, it was announced here Tuesday. The Desert Classic will herald the start of the 1995 Volvo European professional Golf Association Tour and boasts one of the best entry lists.

Genoa sack coach Scoglio

GENOA (R) — Struggling Italian First Division team Genoa sacked coach Franco Scoglio and appointed Pippo Marchioro in his place, club officials said Tuesday. Marchioro finds himself back in serie a just three weeks after he was sacked by First Division rivals Reggiana. Scoglio is the fourth serie A coach to lose his job this season. Besides Genoa and Reggiana, Napoli and Torino have also parted company with their coaches.

Auriol clinches world title

CHESTER (AFP) — Frenchman Didier Auriol won the world drivers' championship title Wednesday in extraordinary circumstances when chief rival Carlos Sainz crashed on the final day of the RAC Rally.

Sainz, in his Subaru Impreza, looked set for the crown himself but left the road on a bend after 5km of the 24th special stage.

He fell back into 14th spot and lost over half-an-hour on leader and teammate Colin McRae.

Sainz had begun the final event of the championship 11 points behind Auriol and was the only man who could stop him becoming the first Frenchman to take the title.

That possibility became a probability after Auriol, plagued by a series of mechanical problems early on in the event, fell back to 92nd place.

He battled back to seventh, but Sainz was in the driving seat — especially since team orders seemed sure to hand him victory — until his crash.

Auriol 36, boasts 16 event wins since his debut in 1989 and his world title ends a series of near-misses by French drivers. Auriol came third in 1991, 1992 and 1993, while Francois Delecour came second last year.

Meanwhile, McRae sped to victory in the RAC Rally to become the first Briton to win the event in 18 years.

On a day of high drama and intrigue, the 26-year-old Scot sealed the elusive home win after completing the 29th and last stage of the four-day event three minutes and 33 seconds ahead of chasing Finn Juha Kankkunen.

But Subaru's victory celebrations were dampened both by the failure of Spain's Carlos Sainz to snatch the world drivers' crown from Toyota's Auriol and by an apparent attempt by McRae "fans" to obstruct the Spaniard's progress.

McRae's stunning success — he led the event virtually from Sunday's start to Wednesday's finish — came 18 years after Roger Clark last secured a home victory in 1976.

1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli manage 79-70 win over Orthodoxi

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli Wednesday scored a 79-70 win over all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi in the first round final of the first division basketball championship.

Although the title holders' win did not come as a surprise as they entered the competition with a better lineup and all-round preparation, the mere nine-point win made the quest for the title more interesting and gave a signal to Al Ahli's camp not to underestimate their opponents.

Al Ahli took the first noticeable lead at 11-6. However a basket by Ziyad Nabulsi and a three-pointer by Jihad Saliba gave Al Orthodoxi a 13-11 lead.

The first half was quite slow, as scoring remained below average and both teams alternated the lead. Al Ahli's three-point expert Marwan Ma'touq sank a basket to retake the lead at 16-13.

Hilal Barakat then added six consecutive points while Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Saedi scored for Al Ahli.

Both teams drew again at 23-23 and then again at 32-32 as Al Ahli scored by Saedi and Yousef Zaghoul. Al Orthodoxi regained the lead at 35-32 but Al Ahli's star Bushnaq scored to end the first half 37-35 for Al Ahli.

Al Ahli outscored their opponents 12-5 at the beginning of the second half as Ramez Hammoudeh secured defensive rebounding while Saedi, Bushnaq and promising Zeid Alkhas scored and rebounded.

Ma'touq gave Al Ahli a 55-43 lead before Al Ahli scored seven consecutive points, taking advantage of many turnovers to lead 62-43.

Al Orthodoxi's playmaker Jihad Saliba excelled in all aspects of the game and scored five three-pointers throughout the match.

Saliba and Barakat almost carried the whole burden of scoring for their team, but Al Ahli managed to keep the lead throughout the second half.

Saedi, Zaghoul and Bushnaq scored for Al Ahli who led 71-60 and con-



Titleholders Al Ahli

tinued to lead ending the match at 79-70.

Al Orthodoxi, who last won the title in 1991, will have to win their match against Al Ahli in the second round to force a best-of-three round.

Despite their loss, Al Orthodoxi's younger lineup did not let down their fans as most onlookers had predicted Al Ahli would win by a bigger margin on their way to retaining their third consecutive crown.

Al Orthodoxi, who had an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989, had mainly depended on the individual efforts of top players, especially Murad Barakat. Therefore the team lost ground to their all-time rivals as Barakat lost form during the past three years and quit the team last year.

Although Al Ahli's camp have had the most consistent and serious training season, stars Marwan Ma'touq and Samir Murqus appeared well below their form and missed some earlier matches. However, Bushnaq along with an abundant lineup of younger, energetic players like Marwan Al Sa'edi, Walid Badran, Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Zeid Alkhas, and many others seem determined to hold on to the championship.

The titleholders were held under the 100-point mark only against Al Jazireh and Al Jalil. They

are led by their Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha who was instrumental in altering their style that enabled them to clinch the title away from Al Orthodoxi in 1990 and win it again in 1992 and 1993.

Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title. Al Jazireh's plans for second place this season were upset by their 17-point loss to Al Orthodoxi. They will thus have to be content with the third place for the third consecutive year, unless they defeat Al Orthodoxi by over 17 points in the second round.

Al Jalil, a fourth place finisher for the past two

years, seem set to stay in their same position for another year after losing 73-69 to Al-Jazireh. They might however take third place if they beat Al Jazireh with over four points in the second round.

As the top four teams are almost certain to retain their standings, the same cannot be said of the other three teams, whose ambition seems to be limited to keeping their place among the prestigious group.

In an effort to upgrade the standard of competition, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) last year promoted only one team from the second division instead of the usual two.

making the number of competing teams seven for the first time. However, this year two teams will be relegated, and only one will be promoted reducing the number to six as of next season.

This year, Homentmen became the first of the two teams to be relegated after failing to score the necessary number of wins.

Homentmen will have to defeat Al Hussein with a score difference of over 14 points and Al Watani with 26 in order to avoid relegation, which is a difficult feat to achieve.

Meanwhile Al Hussein pushed Al Watani to the brink of relegation after scoring a vital 79-76 win.

Al Watani, a fifth-place finisher last year after their win over Al Hussein in double overtime last year, had hoped to advance their standing after a good training programme with their new Iraqi coach Mohammad Al Najjar, who was previously at Al Orthodoxi.

The fact that the team now finds itself fighting for their place in the division rather than achieve an advanced standing has undoubtedly upset the players and fans, especially after their loss to Al Hussein.

Al Watani's only win was over Homentmen. They will have to repeat that result and overcome Al Hussein with over four points in the second round to avoid relegation.

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♠ A 8 4
♥ 7 5 4
♦ A 10 9 8 7
♣ J 10 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 9
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ 10
♣ J 10 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6 5 3
♥ A K 9 7 4 3
♦ K
♣ K

The bidding:

South West North East

1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass

3NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠
The game of bridge presents many cases of "optical illusions" which occur at the table. For this variation on an old theme we would like to thank *Midwest Monitor* reporters Penny Eber and Mike Ochler.

Despite the two-over-one responses, South's rebid of two spades is still a reverse, showing extra values. The bid is just acceptable because the singleton king is in partner's suit and, therefore, virtually the equivalent of an ace. Once

North showed a hand oriented to the minors, South did well to stay away from four hearts.

West led a spade and we would wager that the majority of players would win and go after hearts. That would guarantee the contract

as long as hearts broke no worse than 4-2 and the defender with heart length does not have five spades.

Those are pretty good odds, but as the cards lie the game is doomed to defeat. By the time declarer learns of the 5-1 heart split, it is too late to recover.

Actually, going after the club suit is an even better bet. The contract will make 35 long as neither defender holds five spades and Q 7 clubs. Win the king of spades to preserve the table's entries, overtake the king of clubs with the ace and force out one of the missing club honors. Get to dummy when you regain the lead and drive out the remaining high club, and you're home with two spade tricks, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.

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THE FIRST French Calvet wines of the year made their grand debut in Amman at Hotel Inter Continental Jordan at the elegant Beaujolais Nouveau. The celebration of the arrival of this flavour-filled wine was launched at a

cocktail reception in the Grand Ballroom, hosted by Bernard Bajelet, the ambassador of France, and Chawki Ayoub, general manager of Hotel Inter Continental Jordan.

Mr. Ayoub described the

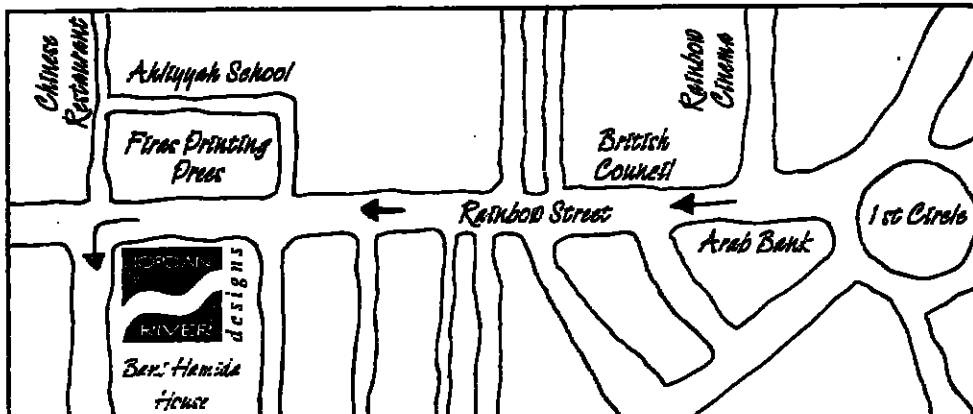
event as another success combining French cuisine and Jordanian hospitality.

Beaujolais Nouveau, which will run at the hotel until Nov. 25, is sponsored by Royal Jordanian, Alahia-Abela and Calvet.

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		Nabil & Hisham's	
The film which won seven Oscars IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45		Najlaa Fathi & Mahmoudi Hamideh in: Disco...Disco Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" Tom Hanks ... in Sleepless in Seattle Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SPEED Shows: 3:15, 5:00		Presents "Water is a Gift of Life" A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. The Arabic Movie The Immigrant Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Thursday...Thursday 1.12.1994 You have a date with Abu Awad at the opening of the new performance of the comedy: A Punctured Bag (Qirbeh Makhzouqa) Ticket window is open all day		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jewish sisters become first to move to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two young sisters have become the first Jordanian Jews to immigrate to Israel, the daily Haaretz said Wednesday. The two, both in their 20s, crossed the King Hussein bridge on Oct. 26 the day Israel and Jordan signed a historic peace deal and reported to the Israeli interior ministry. Under Israeli law any Jew is automatically considered an Israeli citizen. The sisters said their Jewish mother had married a Muslim and they had moved to Jordan when they were children.

Jordan-born doctor convicted of killing

LONDON (R) — A bloodstained garden shed, which a workman had been asked to destroy but instead sold to a neighbour, provided the evidence that helped convict a Jordanian-born doctor of murdering his wife on Wednesday. Hassan Shatanawi, 46, who denied killing his wife Laura May, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Newcastle, in northeast England. The prosecution said Dr. Shatanawi had rented an allotment near his home and erected a small garden shed. A week after his 36-year-old wife disappeared he paid a workman £10 to dismantle and destroy the shed. However, the workman sold it to a neighbour who alerted police when he found hairs and bloodstains inside. Tests showed the blood was Laura's May's. Her body was never found.

Two return from dead in Gaza clashes

GAZA (R) — Two Palestinians listed as killed in Friday's clashes between demonstrators and Palestinian police have turned up alive and well, reducing the toll to 12 dead. Ibrahim Abu Jabal, from the Gaza City district of Rimal, said he had no idea why hospitals and the Jerusalem newspaper Al Quds listed him on the death toll. "I was nowhere near the clashes on Friday, I don't like to get caught up in politics," the 35-year-old car dealer told Reuters on Wednesday. "All my friends and relatives have been phoning to pay condolences." Another Gazan listed as dead, 18-year-old Mohammad Siyam from Shaati refugee camp, on Tuesday attended a rally in the Islamic university to commemorate those killed on Friday, witnesses said. A lecturer there jokingly told him to go and collect the compensation the Palestinian Authority has said it is offering to those killed. Reuters reporters have confirmed 12 deaths by attending their funerals or wakes at their homes.

U.S. troops leaving Kuwait by mid-December

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait (R) — U.S. troops, rushed to Kuwait after Iraq's October border buildup, will complete their pullout by mid-December, a senior U.S. official said on Wednesday. "Having done the job they were asked to do ... I think they can expect to be home by mid-December," visiting U.S. Army Secretary Togo West told reporters.

Troubles continue for former hostage

BOSTON (AP) — Frank Reed, a former hostage in Lebanon who received a hero's welcome upon his 1990 release, is undergoing psychiatric tests after allegedly assaulting his estranged wife. Mr. Reed, 61, has been at a Boston medical centre since Nov. 14, when he pleaded innocent to assault in suburban Malden. He was released on his own recognisance in order to enter the hospital. "It's sad. I definitely think he's having severe emotional problems," said Malden police chief Neil Buckley. Mr. Reed was directed of elementary education at Beirut's International College when he was abducted in 1986. He was freed after more than 3½ years. Since his release, he has lectured about his experiences in captivity but has not held a full-time job.

1,000 couples married en masse in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — One thousand impoverished couples were married in Tehran Wednesday in a mass ceremony sponsored by a state-owned charity. Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said the weddings marked the birth anniversary of Fatima, daughter of the Prophet Mohammad. In a speech at the ceremony, Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged the newlyweds to be kind and cooperative towards one another. The ceremony was paid for by the Imam Khomeini Charity, which cares for the poor. The radio said 5,000 couples were married in mass ceremonies nationwide to mark the anniversary.

Iran protests Iraqi flag on its soil

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has lodged a protest with the United Nations after Iraq raised its flag on Iranian soil, the official news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The head of the Iranian U.N. mission in New York, Kamal Kharazi, charged that a photo of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had also been erected some 500 metres inside Iranian territory at the Khosravi border region in western Iran. Iran dismantled the flag and the picture after Iraq failed to do so despite repeated warnings, he said in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali. The Iranian Foreign Ministry had protested "the measure four times as a violation of Iran's territorial integrity" and demanded the "immediate dismantling of the flag and the picture."

36 arrested in Iranian gambling dens

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police raided several illegal gambling houses in northwestern Iran arresting 36 people, Hamshahri newspaper reported Wednesday. Most of those arrested were caught in villages in the province of Ardebil. Iran banned all forms of gambling after the 1979 Islamic revolution and closed the casinos built by the pro-western Shah. But illegal gambling is rampant here and betting on horses is tolerated in Gonbad-e-Kavus, a Turkmen-populated region in northeastern Iran.

Militants kill 3 Egyptian policemen

CAIRO (AFP) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead three policemen and wounded a passer-by in southern Egypt on Wednesday, the official news agency MENA reported. The assailants opened fire on a police car, killing the three, and wounded a Coptic Christian civilian in the town of Manfalut, 350 kilometres south of Cairo in the Asut region. It was the first attack in the region for five months after police drove the Muslim militant group Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah out of its former stronghold.

'Shots' continue despite Afghan rocketing

KABUL (AP) — Doctors have pressed ahead with a vaccination programme and immunised more than 40,000 children and their mothers this week despite ongoing fighting in the Afghan capital, officials said. The United Nations sought a one-week truce so the vaccination programmes could be carried out, but rival factions battling for control of Kabul have continued to exchange rockets. Five people were killed and 20 were wounded Tuesday night when rockets landed in civilian neighbourhoods in the northwest part of the city. Doctors and nurses are attempting to vaccinate children against measles and polio and their mothers against tetanus. Children are also given vitamins as supplements. "We have had no problems in the course of the vaccination programme and we have been well received by the people," said Dr. Ismatullah Arab, head of the vaccination programme for the Ministry of Public Health. "It will continue as planned until the end of the week."

Fateh stages rally

MEMBERS of the Fateh Hawks, an armed wing of the mainstream Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), stage a rally in Jericho on Wednesday in support of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Hundreds of Palestinians from the West Bank were bussed to the self-rule enclave of Jericho for the rally, which followed a bloody clash between Palestinian police and Hamas activists in Gaza last Friday (see page one (AFP photo)).



Russia urges Iraq to release Kuwaitis for end to blockade

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Iraq must resolve the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war (PoWs) before the United Nations considers lifting sanctions on Baghdad, a senior Russian official said here Wednesday.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davydov said Russia would work to secure the release of hundreds of PoWs who Kuwait claims were taken by Iraqi forces during the August 1990-February 1991 occupation of the emirate. "We discussed Iraq during our talks with Gulf leaders," said Davydov, who was accompanying Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on a tour of the region.

"We stressed to them that Iraq must return all Kuwaiti PoWs and implement other United Nations resolutions if it wants the sanctions to be lifted," he told reporters in the United Arab Emirates capital.

Russia played a leading role in securing Iraq's recognition of Kuwait on Nov. 10, a key U.N. condition for ending the crippling embargo imposed on Baghdad just after its forces stormed Kuwait more than four years ago.

The United Nations and Kuwait have welcomed the Iraqi move but said it was not enough.

"Russia is doing its best to resolve the PoWs issue and we think Iraq is moving in the direction towards the removal of the sanctions," the Russian deputy premier said.

In reference to Iraq's denial that it was holding any Kuwaiti prisoners, he said: "It should prove this. It should permit the Red Cross

and other groups to visit its prisons and other detention centres."

Mr. Davydov declined to say how Moscow would mediate, but Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was at the centre of contacts with the Iraqi leadership before its recognition of Kuwait.

After visits to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Chernomyrdin was to wind up his Gulf tour in Oman.

The Kuwaiti parliament on Tuesday welcomed Iraq's recognition of the country's sovereignty and called on Baghdad to comply with all U.N. demands.

The official agency KUNA said that a plenary session of the Kuwaiti parliament "welcomes the recognition by Iraq of the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait and stresses the need for Baghdad to meet all the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council relating to the Gulf war."

On Saturday the parliament received the official documents setting out Baghdad's formal recognition of its neighbour on Nov. 10. The documents had been sent to the Security Council four days after the announcement.

Although the Security Council hailed Iraq's "step in the right direction," it renewed sanctions imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, an occupation that ended in February 1991 at the hands of a U.S.-led force.

Kuwaiti Education Minister Ahmad Rabai meanwhile reported that "Iraqi school textbooks now mention Kuwait as a state and not as an Iraqi province."

He told reporters that in textbooks used this year in several Iraqi schools "the name of the state of Kuwait was read to the list of Arab states and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

"This is a step in the right direction, but still insufficient," the minister added, demanding that Iraqi textbooks should also include a map of Kuwait with its borders set by the United Nations in May 1993.

He said he did not have copies of textbooks for all grades, but the ones he had showed Kuwait on the maps they contained.

Mr. Rubel did not know if the books, which bear a 1994 publication date, were already being taught in schools.

Iraq's moves to recognise Kuwait began only about a month ago, a very short time in terms of normal book-publication schedules. That implied the books may have been drafted earlier, then revised at the last minute, just before going to the presses.

"The have cancelled everything that has to do with province 19 ... but they are still talking about the mother of all battles," Mr. Rubel said, referring to Iraq's name for the Gulf war.

Kuwaitis were not very impressed with the Russian-mediated recognition that was made formally by the Iraqi National Assembly and Revolutionary Command Council on Nov. 10.

Kuwaitis believe that the Iraqis' claims to the emirate are embedded in their culture and psyche.

13 killed in Algeria as parties urge talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Security forces killed 13 guerrillas when they raided their hide-out in a forest outside Algiers, the Algerian official news agency APs said on Wednesday.

The 13 men were killed in Boudjabroun near the western coastal town of Tipaza, some 60 kilometres from Algiers, APs reported, quoting security officials.

Troops destroyed the guerrilla base, where they found two home-made bombs and equipment to make shotgun cartridges, the officials added.

Four other guerrillas were killed between last Sunday and Tuesday in swoops in four regions, security officials were reported as saying on Tuesday.

Security forces also destroyed three guerrilla hide-outs on Khelouda mountain near Medea, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold south of Algiers, where they found 14 shotguns, they said.

More than 60 rebels were officially reported killed in the past week in clashes and raids.

At least 10,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the army-backed authorities scrapped general elections in January 1992 in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead. Western experts put the death toll at up to 230,000.

Senior Algerian opposition leaders, speaking on Tuesday at the end of a two-day gathering in Rome, urged an end to the bloodshed.

Delegates issued a statement saying that the forum mediated by a Roman Catholic group "should be followed by others" leading to "real negotiations" to end the political violence in Algeria.

The meeting was attended by members of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), the Islamic Nahda Party, the National Liberation Front (FLN) and three leaders of the banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

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COLUMN

Defence rests in 'Hollywood madam' trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — The defence in the Heidi Fleiss trial concluded its case Tuesday after calling the four undercover police officers who posed as Japanese businessmen to catch the alleged "Hollywood madam." During closing arguments, scheduled for next Monday, Ms. Fleiss' attorneys will try to convince the jury their client was the victim of police entrapment. Ms. Fleiss was arrested in June last year after allegedly sending four women to a posh Beverly Hills hotel to have sex with the officers for \$1,500 each. Defence attorney Donald Marks said he was confident the entrapment defence would prevail. "We feel we presented our case and that the burden was and is on the prosecution," he said outside court. Ms. Fleiss, who prosecutors say ran a high-priced prostitution ring catering to the rich and famous, had pleaded not guilty to four charges of pandering — recruiting women to be prostitutes — and one count of cocaine possession. The 28-year-old daughter of a wealthy Beverly Hills doctor, Ms. Fleiss faces up to 11 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

Prince Charles fights for plain English

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles drove himself incomprehensibly to back a campaign for more plain English and less bureaucratic nonsense. The heir to the British throne, an eager fan of more basic teaching in schools, wrote a foreword to A Decade of Jargon and Gobbledygook, a book by the plain English campaign highlighting the worst examples of officialese over the past decade. Prince Charles entered into the spirit with a verbose contribution that took forever to say he backed the campaign. "Due to a frequent regrettable inability to prevent my presence in other locations, I find that I must convey to you my goodwill in a correspondence format," he wrote. "It was when I was still a juvenile figurehead substitute that I first became sensitised by my mother tongue abuse awareness. 'How many of us, I wonder, when faced with pretentious gobbledygook and empty jargon, experience a kick start into despair mode? My feelings towards all of you are, attitudinally, those of enormous encouragement.'

Berlin wants to seal Hitler bunker forever

BERLIN (R) — Berlin City officials, fearing the remains of Adolf Hitler's bunker could become a neo-Nazi shrine if opened to the public, recommended Tuesday the chambers be sealed forever. The city's Culture Ministry, which has been studying the issue for two years, said opening the underground chambers near the Brandenburg Gate would not lead to any better understanding of the Nazi period. The remains of the bunker, which Soviet troops destroyed when they conquered Berlin in May 1945, have been buried since the end of the war. Part of the complex was located under the no-man's land along the Berlin Wall. "Turning the remains of the former Chancellor and the bunker complex into historical monuments would give them an unwarranted significance," said Rainer Klemke, spokesman for Berlin's Culture Ministry. "The remnants are too modest to merit protecting the area," he added. "Studying the remains to draw conclusions about the Nazi period would only be made more difficult if they were opened to the public."

Briton jailed over fake travellers cheques

CALAIS, France (AFP) — A Briton was jailed Tuesday for trying to draw money in France with counterfeit travellers' cheques, judicial officials said. James Rea, from Birmingham, was given a 12 month sentence, with eight months suspended, by a court in Boulogne after being seized red handed trying to change £100 in fake cheques.

Experts suggest multi-pronged approach to shortage of water

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reducing water losses, substituting for fresh water, reducing water demand, reallocating supplies and raising the productivity of rainfed agriculture were the main recommendations that experts suggested Wednesday to address the chronic shortage of water in the Middle East.

"There is not a general strategy or model to solve the specific water scarcity problems of a country or region," said the list of conclusions and recommendations of a three-day seminar. "Every country has to develop its own strategy."

The document, read out by Professor Peter Wolf of the University of Kassel in Germany at the concluding session of the seminar entitled "Optimisation of Water in Agriculture," highlighted that population and development have overwhelmed "traditional agricultural water management practices, making new management approaches and strategies necessary."

Among the management practices suggested by experts from eight Arab countries, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United States and Britain were also adoption of modern irrigation technology, ensuring that cost of water becomes an important factor in the monetary return from a crop

— raising water tariffs — privatisation of part of the water delivery system, raising awareness and offering proper training in modern irrigation technology, on-farm research and setting up of agencies dedicated to management of irrigation water.

The seminar, organised by the French embassy in cooperation with the European Union, the University of Jordan and the Jordan Valley Authority, also recommended the use of treated waste water in agriculture after ascertaining the socio-economic and environmental aspects of such a usage.

Attention also should be given to ensuring that re-use of water does not lead to eroding the quality of the soil, said the experts at the concluding session, chaired by Water and Irrigation Ministry Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hani.

As the recommendations show, the focus of the meeting was a general assessment of the water situation in the Middle East and how the region's farmers could make optimum use of water, which international studies have found to be far short of the actual needs of the region regardless of political agreements.

Among the topics reviewed at the seminar were irrigation methods and techniques presently used in the region as

well as proposed means to raise efficient use of agricultural water, land and water policies, water resources development in Syria, irrigation management, vegetable production and irrigation in Turkey, Sudan's experience in horticultural crops, improving water resources, use of treated water for irrigation, and water conservation methods.

In concluding remarks, delegates emphasised the need to impart the findings and recommendations of the event to farmers throughout the region since the very objective of the seminar was to come up with practical solutions that the agricultural community could adopt to cope with the shortage of water.

Jean-Pierre Pierard, economic counsellor at the delegation of the European Commission in Amman, noted that the European Union had contributed over \$100 million to improving the Kingdom's water sector and reaffirmed that the EU stood ready to extend further help.

"The EU hopes and it is sure that it is going to continue cooperating with Jordan and other countries in the region" as it has done so far, he said.

The participants in the meeting will take a field trip to the Jordan Valley on Thursday for a firsthand look at the water situation in the area.

Fateh stages rally in Jericho

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of the military authorities."

The three kidnapped 19-year-old Corporal Nachshon Waksman on Oct. 9 and held in a house in Bir Nabala north of Jerusalem.

They killed him five days later just before Israeli commandos stormed the house and shot them dead, despite a 24-hour extension in a deadline for the release of Hamas prisoners. The army has since sealed the house.

The families maintained the kidnappers had no intention of killing their hostage and that he died in the battle with the soldiers.

On Monday, the supreme court gave the army permission to destroy the house of a Palestinian suicide bomber who blew up a bus in Tel Aviv on Oct. 19 killing 22 Israelis.

The House in the West Bank town of Qalqilyah was dynamited later the same day.

Gunmen firing assault rifles wounded a Palestinian secret policeman in a drive-by shooting near his home in Gaza City late Tuesday.

Police intelligence Captain Jamal Abu Toha, 35, was wounded in the chest as he got out of his car. Capt. Abu Toha returned fire, but the gunmen escaped, Palestinian sources said, he was in fair condition.

Capt. Abu Toha is a former member of the guerrilla wing of the militant Hamas. Palestinians said Capt. Abu Toha, despite joining the secret police, had maintained good relations with Hamas and it was unlikely the group was taking revenge.

The court rejected pleas by their families to block the move by the Israeli army saying there was no "reason to interfere with the decisions

Corporation, who led the Jordanian side to the talks, said that the two sides discussed organising trips by small cars as well as transportation of tourist groups between the two countries.

They also discussed organising operations by tourist boats between Eilat and Aqaba as well as policies and

measures related to public safety, marine pollution, rescue operations and maritime inspection of ships.

The two sides discussed air transport, finalising talks about the air corridor between Jordan and Israel and the use of Aqaba international airport as a main airport in the Gulf of Aqaba region.

According to Dr. Mahasneh, the two sides will meet again next month to continue their discussions.

Panels to follow up peace treaty

(Continued from page 1)

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